

SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



2018 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Early in the 2018 session, all eyes were on a bill to update the adoption code in Georgia. After failing to pass in 2017, when last minute discriminatory language was added, the adoption bill became a priority legislative issue for Democrats and Republicans alike going into 2018. Ultimately, a clean version of the adoption bill (HB 159) was passed and signed by Gov. Nathan Deal on March 5, bringing a simpler and more streamlined process to Georgia families seeking to adopt.

One theme that emerged this legislative session was efforts by Republican members to usurp local control. SB 262/263 (a measure to de-annex large portions of the City of Stockbridge) became the standard bearer of local control by circumventing the normal process of creating cities through a local legislative process. Instead, the de-annexation was placed in hands of the state lawmakers without allowing all affected citizens to vote. Senate Democrats fought this pair of bills at every juncture and attempted to amend the bill on the floor in the final hours, but the Lieutenant Governor blocked the attempt claiming the effort was out of order.

Another attempt to usurp local government control came via SB 418, which sought to override the authority of local governments to ban certain products regulated by the federal government. And SB 363 was aimed at forcing the City of Atlanta to reduce their polling hours.

Voting rights was another common theme. Efforts to replace Georgia's outdated and vulnerable voting machines came to fruition in the form of SB 403. The bill died at midnight of this year's legislative session, since the House and the Senate could not come to an agreement about how to add the use of the paper ballot system. Georgia remains one of five states that rely entirely on electronic voting machines that don't leave an independent paper backup trail. As mentioned above, SB 363 was an attempt to curtail access to the polls, not only by limiting polling hours in Atlanta, but also by imposing restriction on weekend voting that would impact the ability of African American churches to hold "Souls to the Polls" Sunday voting events.

For the first time since 2002, the State's portion of the K-12 education formula will be fully funded. Otherwise known as Quality Basic Education (QBE), this budget item will replenish the decade-long "austerity cuts," some \$166.7 million, and is an important step forward to provide students and school districts the resources they need to succeed.

Gun legislation was an important issue for voters this legislative session, but efforts by Democrats to bring real gun reform to Georgia were quashed by Republican committee chairs and leadership.

Georgia lawmakers considered a bill that posed serious risk to the state's immigrant community and threatened to harm local governments and the state's economy. Senate Bill 452 would have required communities to work more closely with the federal deportation apparatus, disrupting families and making local taxpayers foot the bill. The bill took on several changes throughout March, but ultimately failed to reach the House floor on final night of the legislation session.

In the waning hours of the 40-day session, lawmakers handed a landmark win to Georgia's future college students. In HB 787, lawmakers authorized a new grant for college students that gives weight to financial need. If the governor approves, the Georgia Student Finance Commission will establish a needs-based financial aid program for full-time students in the university system, subject to future appropriations. The commission gets flexibility to determine eligibility criteria and grant amounts.

Senate Democrats were successful in passing a number of bills this session, including:

- SB 331, by Sen. Steve Henson, Tucker, would allow state lottery winners to remain anonymous by submitting a written request and paying up to 4% of their winnings for anticipated costs of maintaining confidentiality.
- SB 457, introduced by Sen. Horacena Tate, would require public and private schools to have drills to practice handling dangerous situations. Public schools would base the drills on their existing school safety plans. A version passed on HB 763.
- SR 685, introduced by Sen. Lester Jackson, Savannah, allowing for Runaway Negro Creek to be renamed. The creek runs along the edge of Skidaway Island State Park. The new name of the creek as selected by the residents will now be called Freedom Creek
- SB 82, also introduced by Sen. Jackson This would allow Georgia residents that are in the National Guard or the reserves to receive HOPE without waiting to establish residency in the same manner as currently allowed for active duty military
- SB 345, introduced by Sen. Jen Jordan, Buckhead, (Jordan, 6th) would prohibit credit reporting agencies from imposing any fees for freezing or unfreezing a credit report. This passed on SB 376.

The following Legislative Summary recaps all the legislative highlights of the 2018 session.

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Notable Legislation Passed

The Good

Bills that Passed Both Chambers

SB 82 (Jackson, 2nd) – HOPE for National Guard and Reserves

This legislation would allow Georgia residents that are in the National Guard or the reserves to receive HOPE without waiting to establish residency in the same manner as currently allowed for active duty military.

SB 118 (Unterman, 45th) – Expand Autism Coverage to 21

This legislation would expand the existing autism coverage mandate to cover people up to age 20. Currently, it only applies to children 6 and under. The annual cap for applied behavior analysis would be increased from \$30,000 to \$35,000. Applied behavior analysis would have to be approved by the insurance company, and autism drugs would not have to be covered in the same manner as other drugs under the plan.

SB 331 (Henson, 41st) – Confidential Lottery Winners

This legislation would allow state lottery winners to remain anonymous by submitting a written request and paying up to 4% of their winnings for anticipated costs of maintaining confidentiality.

SB 345 (Jordan, 6th) – Free Credit Freezes

This legislation would prohibit credit reporting agencies from imposing any fees for freezing or unfreezing a credit report.

This passed on SB 376.

SB 457 (Tate, 38th) – School Lockdown Drills

This legislation would require public and private schools to have drills to practice handling dangerous situations. Public schools would base the drills on their existing school safety plans.

A version passed on HB 763.

SR 685 (Jackson, 2nd) – Rename Runaway Negro Creek

This resolution would rename Runaway Negro Creek as Freedom Creek.

HB 65 (Peake, 141st) – Joint Study Committee on THC Medical Oil Access and add Pain and PTSD

This legislation would create the Joint Study Committee on THC Medical Oil Access to study access to THC oil, including production.

It would also allow doctors to prescribe THC oil to chronic pain patients that had been unresponsive to other therapies for six months and PTSD patients.

HB 159 (Reeves, 34th) – Revise Adoption Laws

This legislation would make numerous changes to the adoption code. It would make numerous administrative changes and clarify jurisdiction. It would lower the minimum adoption age to 21 for relatives and allow step-parents less than 10 years older to adopt.

It would reduce the revocation period from 10 days to five days.

It would allow the payment of living expenses for birth mothers in non-agency adoptions so long as all payments are made through the lawyer's escrow account and accounted for in the adoption order. If the judge deemed the paid expenses to be unreasonable, the parties and the attorney would be subject to criminal sanctions.

Foreign adoptions or guardianships could be domesticated if the child is issued a US immediate relative visa or a Hague Convention immigrant visa, which would also serve as evidence that parental rights had been terminated. Courts would have the ability to update the child's birth certificate upon evidence of a more accurate birthday.

It would raise the standard for a court to determine that a parent hadn't communicated with or paid support for a child and therefore loses his or her right to object to an adoption to clear and convincing evidence.

It would eliminate the provision giving notice to of abortion biological fathers that are not legal fathers but had acted as a father but that are unknown to the mother and not on the putative father registry.

It would require adoption petitions to include the place of birth and for non-citizen adoptions, a statement of how the child will obtain lawful status. It would include any known legal custodians and other pending adoptions.

It would enumerate provisions that the court should consider when determining whether an adoption is in the best interest of the child.

It would allow the release of an adoptee's file at 18 instead of 21 and include the full file, not just the birth parents' names.

It would clarify that out-of-state placement agencies can facilitate adoptions.

It would update all statutory adoption forms.

It would also require school boards that give maternity leave to also give leave to an adoptive parent.

It also includes the “Supporting and Strengthening Families Act” that would allow parents to sign over their children to relatives or people approved by a child placement agency, a for profit or nonprofit faith based entity, or any nonprofit entity for a period of up to one year by a revocable power of attorney. Parents could sign children over to grandparents for an indefinite time, and military personnel could sign over children for more than one year so long as it does not exceed the term of deployment plus 30 days.

The power of attorney would have to be recorded with the probate court of the county in which the transfer occurred.

The person would have all parental rights except to consent to marriage or abortion, to terminate parental rights, or to modify an existing support or other order. Child support would follow the child. Parents could not sign over their children during a divorce or custody proceeding unless agreed upon by both parents or authorized by the court order. The person receiving custody could not be a sex offender and must undergo a background check. Parents with sole custody would have to notify the noncustodial parent, and signing over a child would be grounds for a custody modification hearing. Parents subject to a DFCS investigation would not be able to sign over their children. Powers of attorney must be recorded with the probate court.

HB 205 (Meadows, 5th) – Fracking

This legislation would regulate hydraulic fracturing in Georgia. It would require public notice to be given of any application for fracking, including the fluid to be used and the estimated amounts and disposal methods of wastewater. The board would determine regulations to monitor groundwater within 1/2 mile of any borehole, disclosure of the fracking fluid so long as trade secrets are protected, provisions for the disposal of fracking fluids, and provisions for decommissioning bore sites and other facilities. It would raise from 75% to 85% the percentage of ownership that needs to sign off on a unitization contract when DNR determines that an entire oil or gas pool needs to be operated as a single resource for environmental protection purposes.

It would also allow the Board of Natural Resources to delegate oil and gas permitting to an Oil and Gas Board consisting of the state geologist and three appointees of the Governor in any year in which it receives 12 or more permit applications.

It would increase the permit cost for a non-water well from \$25 to \$500 and allow for public notice and input. Applicants would have to provide notice directly by a sign on the closest road, delivery to property owners within 1/2 mile, and a legal ad. Permits would include requirements for testing well casings, requirements for maintaining roads affected by drilling or fracking, and buffers to protect neighboring property owners from

noise or pollution. It would raise the maximum bond for drilling from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

It would expressly allow local governments to issue further land use restrictions.

It would levy an extraction tax of 3¢ per barrel of oil and 1¢ per thousand feet of gas. Local governments would be able to levy a tax of up to 9¢ per barrel of oil and 2¢ per thousand feet of gas.

HR 238 (Watson, 172nd) – Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to dedicate up to 80% of state sales tax revenues from sales at outdoor recreation equipment stores as defined by the 2007 North American Industry Classification to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund for the purpose of protecting and preserving conservation land.

HB 332 (Watson, 172nd) – Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act

This legislation would earmark 40% of state sales tax revenues from sales at outdoor recreation equipment stores as defined by the 2007 North American Industry Classification to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to be used for state parks, local parks of regional significance, defraying the cost of conservation easements to local governments and acquisition and upkeep of conservation land used for the provision or protection of clean water, wildlife, hunting, or fishing, for military installation buffering, or for natural resource-based outdoor recreation.

If state sales tax revenues drop by 1% or more, the earmarked amount would be reduced by 20%, and if revenues drop 1% or more in the next year, the earmark would be reduced by 50%.

The fund would only be able to acquire real property in or adjacent to wilderness management areas or state parks, land identified in a state wildlife action plan, riparian land to protect drinking water supply, or land adjacent to military bases. It would also be able to issue grants to local governments and nonprofits. The fund would be overseen of a board of the relevant state agency heads, two appointees by the Speaker, and three appointees by the Lt. Governor.

It would dedicate up to 10% of the fund to offset lost local tax revenues in counties where the state has used Outdoor Stewardship funds to purchase more than 20,000 acres of property that amounts to more than 10% of the county's tax base.

Democratic Bills that Passed Senate but not House

SB 318 (Rhett, 33rd) – Involuntary Commitments by EMTS and Paramedics

This legislation would establish a one year pilot program under DCH in at least two urban counties to examine allowing EMTs and paramedics to transfer people to the ER for a psychiatric evaluation. The department would issue a report on the program and legislative recommendations by June 30, 2019.

SB 129 (Rhett, 33rd) – Allow Veterans to Buy Retirement Credit for Time on Active Duty

This legislation would allow retired veterans to buy credit in the Employee’s Retirement System. Veterans who have who have at least two years of membership in ERS would be able to buy up to five years credit by paying the full actuarial cost of the time sought. Veterans would be able to spread the cost out into monthly payments over a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 10 years. It would only apply to military service since January 1, 1990.

SB 236 (James, 35th) – Notify DFCS When Parent gets DUI with Child in Car

This legislation would direct prosecutors to report parents or guardians convicted of a DUI with their child under 14 in the car to DFCS for a child neglect investigation.

SB 349 (Jackson, 2nd) – Use Veteran’s Health ID for Notarizations

The bill would allow notary publics to confirm a document signor’s identity with a valid Veteran’s Health Identification Card.

SB 358 (Rhett, 33rd) – Banking Improvement Zones

This legislation would allow local governments to apply to DCA to create a banking improvement zone that covers a region with limited access to financial institutions. The local government could then choose a bank in the zone to be the depository of the local government’s funds and accept an interest rate lower than the current two-year interest rate. DCA would only allow a banking improvement zone if the favorable interest rate does not violate the gratuities clause.

SB 411 (Jackson, 2nd) – Georgia Commission on African American Culture and History

This legislation would create the Georgia Commission on African American Culture and History to cultivate African American history in Georgia, manage artifacts and put on exhibits, coordinate with educational and corporate institutions, and disseminate African American cultural historical information. It would produce a report by the end of 2019 on the establishment of a Museum of Georgia African American History and Culture.

The Commission would be 20 members appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, and the Black Caucus.

SB 420 (Rhett, 33rd) – Require Gyms to Have Defibrillators

This legislation would require gyms and health clubs with more than 250 members to have at least one defibrillator on premises. DPH could provide by rule for larger gyms to have multiple defibrillators. Gyms would be required to train expected users on how to use the defibrillator. Existing immunity for non-malicious, nonprofessional use would apply in the same manner as for defibrillators in other locations. Gyms that fail to comply would be given notice the first instance and the fined a civil penalty of up to \$2,000/day.

HB 834 (Ballinger, 23rd) – Allow Domestic Violence Victims to Break Leases

This legislation would allow domestic violence victims to break leases with 30 days' notice upon providing the landlord when a protective order has been issued protecting the tenant or his or her minor children or an abuser has been released prior to trial or on probation for family violence.

It would provide that temporary protective orders remain in effect until the hearing and increase the time frame in which the hearing must occur from 30 to 45 days.

It would also provide that all moveout inspections would occur within three days of vacation of the property if that occurs before the lease is out. It let landlords have the tenant present for the inspection, at which point they would agree on any damage. If the tenant is not present for the inspection, he or she could challenge the inspection.

The Bad

Bills that Passed Both Chambers

HB 217 (Carson, 46th) – Raise SSO Cap

This legislation would raise the annual aggregate cap for dollar for dollar tax credits for donations to student scholarship organizations from \$58 million to \$100 million through 2028, at which point it would revert to \$58 million. Instead of issuing tax credits on a first come, first served basis. SSOs would be required to disclose any fees or assessments retained by the SSO. It would increase the percentage of revenues that must go to scholarships from 90 to 92% of the first \$1.5 million, from 93 to 94% up to \$10 million, from 94 to 95% up to \$20 million, and from 95 to 96% on revenues above \$20 million. The state auditor would issue an annual economic analysis of the program. DOR would set the date for SSOs to submit their annual report instead of fixing it in statute, and the report would also have to include the average scholarship amounts by quartile.

It would also create a sales tax exemption for noncommercial materials and mailings by nonprofits through July 1, 2021.

SB 262 (Strickland, 17th) – Deannex Territory from Stockbridge

This legislation would property from the City of Stockbridge so that it could be included in the new city of Eagle’s Landing. It would go into effect if the city of Eagle’s Landing is approved.

SB 263 (Strickland, 17th) – City of Eagle’s Landing

This legislation would create the new city of Eagle’s Landing that would include territory deannexed from Stockbridge.

SB 315 (Thompson, 14th) – Unauthorized Computer Access

This legislation would create the crime of unauthorized computer access for anyone that knowingly accesses a computer of network without authorization to be a high and aggravated misdemeanor. The legislation would not apply to persons in the seam household, legitimate business activities, cybersecurity active defenses, or violations of terms of service agreements. It would increase the penalty for illegally disclosing passwords to be a high and aggravated misdemeanor.

SB 339 (Ligon, 3rd) – Campus Speech

This legislation would require the Board of Regents to implement a policy to protect students’ rights to free speech and equal access to public forums but allow for time, place, and manner restrictions. The Board of Regents would determine sanctions and would report annually on free speech issues encountered on its campuses.

Bad Bills Stopped in House or Senate

SB 74 (McKoon 29th) – Parental Notification Waiver for Minor Abortion

This legislation would increase the burden of proof for a minor seeking a waiver for parental notification of abortion to be clear and convincing evidence.

SB 363 (Brass, 28th) – Vote Suppression and Faster Advance Vote Counting

This legislation would eliminate the City of Atlanta’s ability to keep the polls open an extra hour until 8:00 for municipal elections. It would also allow counties to start counting in person early votes at 6:00 on election day.

SB 375 (Ligon, 3rd) – Allow DFCS to Contract with Discriminatory Adoption Agencies

This legislation would allow DFCS to contract with an spend state money with adoption and foster care services that discriminate based on religious beliefs.

SB 418 (Wilkinson, 50) – Preempt Pet Store and Other Store Ordinances

This legislation would prohibit local governments from prohibiting the sale of goods regulated by the USDA, the FDA, or the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

SB 450 (Payne, 54th) – Allow Deer Baiting Statewide

This legislation would allow deer baiting on public land statewide, not just in the southern half of the state.

SB 452 (Stone, 23rd) – Mandatory Immigration Actions for Criminal Suspects

This legislation would require courts to verify the immigration status of anyone they sentence and check with ICE to see if that person has a detainer saying that they are a non-citizen eligible for deportation. If the suspect is undocumented or has a detainer, DCS and the Parole Board would initiate the process to transfer the person to a federal facility and notify ICE at least 72 hours before releasing the person if they are released pending transfer. If a suspect was on parole, the Department of Community Supervision would notify ICE.

It would make it mandatory for police officers that discover a suspect is undocumented to notify the prosecutor, transfer the suspect to a federal detention facility, or notify Homeland Security and make all optional immigration measures that the criminal justice system has mandatory.

HB 789 (Fleming, 121st) – Treat App-based, “Gig,” etc. Employees as Contractors

This legislation would provide that people offering services online through a third party marketplace are independent contractors, not employees, if the employee agrees in writing, sets his or her own hours, is allowed to use other platforms, is allowed to have another job, bears all of he or her own expenses, is not restricted to a specific territory,

does not work at the platform operator's physical business, and provides his or her own tools.

The Ugly

Bills that Passed Both Chambers

HB 918 (Efstration, 104th) – Tax Cuts

This legislation would reduce the top tax rate from 6% to 5.75%, lower the corporate tax rate from 6% to 5.75%, double the standard deduction, and eliminate the TAVT on obtaining a replacement title for a vehicle 15 or fewer years old if there is sufficient evidence that it no longer exists. It is also the annual IRS update.

Legislation Passed by House and Senate

Agriculture

SB 330 (Wilkinson, 50th) – FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience

This legislation would create a pilot program to implement the Future Farmers of America supervised agricultural experience. It would establish the programs in at least six elementary schools, one in each of six regions determine by DOE. It would include daily instruction, hands on work, and leadership training.

Appropriations

HB 683 (Ralston, 7th) – FY 2018 Supplemental Budget

HB 684 (Ralston, 7th) – FY 2019 General Budget

Civil Law

SB 365 (Ligon 3rd) – Code Revision Commission

This legislation would implement technical corrections identified by the Code Revision Commission.

SB 436 (Strickland, 17th) – Probate Court Judges

This legislation would eliminate the formal certification required for new probate judges, but the training requirement would remain. It would eliminate the distinction between full and part time associate probate judges.

It would remove the clerk of superior court from the line of succession for a probate judge vacancy and put the clerk of probate court behind the associate probate judges. Associate judges would preside, if able, when the probate judge is unable to preside before the probate judge appoints someone to preside.

It would give sole commissioners the same authority to set probate court judges in the same manner as a county commission.

It would increase the minimum probate court bond paid by the county from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

It would remove judges emeriti from the Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia. It would remove the 12 year service requirement for retired judges to perform marriages.

It would allow probate courts to be open on any 40 hour/week as determined by the probate judge.

It would allow the Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia to appoint up to four of themselves to the Probate Judges Training Council.

It would make other administrative and technical changes.

It would also provide that interested persons that can offer a will for probate when the executor fails to do so includes without limitation any devisee, creditor, purchaser from a decedent, other administrator, or anyone seeking to make a claim.

HB 121 (Efcstration, 104th) – Trusts

This legislation would extend the statutory timeframe in which nonvested property interests or powers of appointment to administer estates must vest, terminate, or be executed from 90 years to 360 years for interests created after July 1, 2018.

It would allow conservators, guardians, agents, etc. with authority to accept notice and perform the action without notifying the other person, so long as there is no conflict of interest.

It would allow all parties to a trust that would be required for a judicial settlement to enter into nonjudicial settlements that don't violate a material purpose of the trust or revoke or modify a noncharitable irrevocable trust.

It would allow courts to modify or revoke noncharitable irrevocable trust in a way that violates a material aspect of the trust with the consent of the settlor and all beneficiaries. After the settlor's death modification or revocation would only be available with the consent of all beneficiaries if it would not violate a material aspect. Modification would

also be available to facilitate the purpose or administration of the trust. It would allow the transfer of property from one noncharitable trust to another with the same beneficiaries upon providing notice to the settlor, if living, and all beneficiaries and persons with an interest.

It would provide that property granted to a trust would be treated as if granted to the trustee on behalf of the trust.

It would increase the threshold where a trustee receiving fees of 5% of the trust value pay terminate if for not justifying the expense from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

It would provide that creditors could not force distributions from spendthrift trusts even if the debt in question falls under a purpose for which funds can be distributed. It would not count reimbursements of income taxes to a settlor for tax liability accrued by the trust toward any amount that may be paid to the settlor.

It would provide that property in marital trusts where property is given from one spouse to the other is treated as being property of the recipient at the time of his or her death.

It would give trust beneficiaries, not their guardians, control over administrative matters regarding the trustee, regardless of whether the beneficiaries have reached the age of majority.

It would provide that trustees of express trusts created in writing would have all powers given, even if those powers are not in the statutory list of powers of a trustee. It would allow trustees of express trusts to make loans to a beneficiary so long as the trustee retains a lien on the loans and to apportion income and expenses against either principal or income.

It would allow for directed trusts where the settlor or a trust director other than a trustee has authority over the administration, investment, management, or disbursement of the property. The trust director would have the same fiduciary responsibility as a trustee, and the director's liability could only be modified to the same extent as a trustee.

HB 897 (Efstration, 104th) – Uniform Power of Attorney Update

This legislation would make the provision requiring certified mail and recording when revoking a power of attorney optional. It would provide that agents are only permanently disqualified after being incapacitated for at least six months. It would allow attorney's fees when a third party files a petition against an agent that admits to a violation. it would also provide that the transaction specific exemption from the uniform process only applies to real estate, that witnesses to a power of attorney must not be agents and only are there to attest to the signing, that a finding of incapacity for the purpose of a power of attorney does not impact any guardianship proceedings, that failure to delegate financial authority does not affect other financial relationships between the parties, that an agent can establish a trust that falls within the scope of the agent's authority, and that a power

of attorney cannot authorize execution or revocation of wills, an affidavit to the personal knowledge of the principal, or for the agent to vote on behalf of the principal.

HB 904 (Hanson, 80th) – Liability for Recreational Land Owners

This legislation would provide that property owners that charge a fee to access land for recreational purposes would be liable for injuries related to the use for which the fee was charged on that date to anyone that enters lawfully.

Consumer Protection

SB 376 (Shafer, 48th) – Free Credit Freezes

This legislation would prohibit credit reporting agencies from imposing any fees for freezing or unfreezing a credit report.

It would also allow banks chartered by a US territory to issues letters of credit.

This legislation contains SB 345 (Jordan, 6th)

Criminal Law

SB 315 (Thompson, 14th) – Unauthorized Computer Access

This legislation would create the crime of unauthorized computer access for anyone that knowingly accesses a computer or network without authorization to be a high and aggravated misdemeanor. The legislation would not apply to persons in the seam household, legitimate business activities, cybersecurity active defenses, or violations of terms of service agreements. It would increase the penalty for illegally disclosing passwords to be a high and aggravated misdemeanor.

SB 336 (Unterman, 45th) – Nondisclosure of Wiretaps and Store Licensee Fingerprints

This legislation would prohibit communications providers from informing customers when their information is subpoenaed during an investigation is for sexual exploitation of a minor, furnishing pornography to minors, child pornography, and human trafficking.

It would also direct GCIC to send professional licensees' fingerprints to the FBI so they will be flagged if arrested.

SB 407 (Strickland, 17th) – Criminal Justice Reform Commission

This is the 2018 legislation from the Criminal Justice Reform Commission. See Appendix A.

HB 732 (Silcox, 52nd) – Criminalize Patronizing Human Trafficking Victims

This legislation would criminalize patronizing a person subject to human trafficking in addition to solicitation. It would also apply the 5-20 year sentence to anyone that soliciting or patronizing a human trafficking a human trafficking victim over 16, not just for victims 16 and 17. The 10-20 penalty for victims under 16 would be unchanged.

HB 803 (Willard, 51st) – Trafficking Disabled and Elder Persons

This legislation would prohibit using coercion, deception, isolation, or other exploitative methods to exert control over a disabled adult, elder person, or resident of a long-term care facility in order to appropriate their resources. It would be a felony punished by 1-20 years and a fine of up to \$100,000.

HB 830 (Harden, 148th) – Controlled Substances Update

This legislation would update Georgia’s controlled substances list to reflect drugs scheduled at the federal level.

HB 890 (Fleming, 121st) – Prohibit Using Emergency Exit After Shoplifting

This legislation would make it a misdemeanor to use the emergency exit after shoplifting.

HB 907 (Fleming, 121st) – DA Vacancy Appointments

This legislation would provide that, when the Governor appoints a DA to fill a vacancy, that the appointee would serve until January 1 of the year following the next general election that is more than six months after the appointment, regardless of whether that would extend the term. The position would then be filled by a special election held in conjunction with that general election. Currently, a DA is appointed to fill the remainder of a term if there are 27 or fewer months remaining or filled by an appointment followed by special election if longer.

Economic Development

SB 395 (Watson, 1st) – Georgia Joint Defense Commission

This legislation would create the Georgia Joint Defense Commission comprised of the House Veterans Chair, the Senate Economic Development Chair, four House members appointed by the Speaker, one Democratic and one Republican senator appointed by the Lt. Governor, one citizen appointed by the governor from Georgia's eight military installation regions, the Georgia Defense Initiative Director, the adjutant general of the Guard, and the TCSG Commissioner to coordinate with military installations in Georgia and implement a plan to ensure viability and avoid the risk of having a base or other facility closed.

It would also create a grant program through TCSG to promote military installations by ensuring that they have a skilled civilian workforce available.

Family Law and Juvenile Justice

SB 131 (Tillery, 19th) – Stay of Adoption During Appeal of Termination of Parental Rights and Waiver of Counsel in Juvenile Court

This legislation would require that adoption proceedings be stayed until the full appeals process for a termination of parental rights has finished. It would also prohibit trial courts from modifying the original court order during an appeal, except at the discretion of the trial court.

It would also require that parties in juvenile court that waive the right to an attorney would have to make that waiver knowingly, voluntarily, and on the record. Children whose liberty in jeopardy are not permitted to waive their right to counsel.

It would also provide that a minor is a dependent due to lack of proper parental care or control and eligible for termination of parental rights if returning the child would cause a risk of harm in addition to the current provision that continuing the parent-child relationship would cause harm. When considering whether to terminate parental rights for lack of care or control, the courts would consider the benefit of a stable home environment and the child's general well-being in addition to the current requirement to consider a child's attachments, wishes, and need for permanence.

SB 375 (Ligon, 3rd) – Allow DFCS to Contract with Discriminatory Adoption Agencies

This legislation would allow DFCS to contract with an spend state money with adoption and foster care services that discriminate based on religious beliefs.

SB 427 (Kennedy, 18th) – Child Support

This legislation would provide that child support orders must take into account the obligor's ability to pay and the subsistence needs of the parents and the child. Imputed wages for parents that do not provide evidence of income would be based on the parent's specific employability circumstances instead of a 40 hour work week at minimum wage.

Incarcerated parents' income would not be based on pre-incarceration income but on the parent's actual ability to pay, and incarcerated parents would not be considered willfully unemployed. Incarceration would toll support accrual pending modification in the same manner as losing one's job.

It provide that enrollment in any public health program, not just Medicaid and PeachCare, does not automatically satisfy the child's health care requirement.

It would increase the federal deficit reduction act fees on parents that have not received TANF or adoption or foster care assistance from \$25 to \$35.

It is also HB 654 that would allow for the use of separate worksheets for child support orders when there are multiple children on the order and one of them is likely to become ineligible to receive support within two years.

HB 159 (Reeves, 34th) – Revise Adoption Laws

This legislation would make numerous changes to the adoption code. It would make numerous administrative changes and clarify jurisdiction. It would lower the minimum adoption age to 21 for relatives and allow step-parents less than 10 years older to adopt.

It would reduce the revocation period from 10 days to five days.

It would allow the payment of living expenses for birth mothers in non-agency adoptions so long as all payments are made through the lawyer's escrow account and accounted for in the adoption order. If the judge deemed the paid expenses to be unreasonable, the parties and the attorney would be subject to criminal sanctions.

Foreign adoptions or guardianships could be domesticated if the child is issued a US immediate relative visa or a Hague Convention immigrant visa, which would also serve as evidence that parental rights had been terminated. Courts would have the ability to update the child's birth certificate upon evidence of a more accurate birthday.

It would raise the standard for a court to determine that a parent hadn't communicated with or paid support for a child and therefore loses his or her right to object to an adoption to clear and convincing evidence.

It would eliminate the provision giving notice to of abortion biological fathers that are not legal fathers but had acted as a father but that are unknown to the mother and not on the putative father registry.

It would require adoption petitions to include the place of birth and for non-citizen adoptions, a statement of how the child will obtain lawful status. It would include any known legal custodians and other pending adoptions.

It would enumerate provisions that the court should consider when determining whether an adoption is in the best interest of the child.

It would allow the release of an adoptee's file at 18 instead of 21 and include the full file, not just the birth parents' names.

It would clarify that out-of-state placement agencies can facilitate adoptions.

It would update all statutory adoption forms.

It would also require school boards that give maternity leave to also give leave to an adoptive parent.

It also includes the "Supporting and Strengthening Families Act" that would allow parents to sign over their children to relatives or people approved by a child placement agency, a for profit or nonprofit faith based entity, or any nonprofit entity for a period of up to one year by a revocable power of attorney. Parents could sign children over to grandparents for an indefinite time, and military personnel could sign over children for more than one year so long as it does not exceed the term of deployment plus 30 days.

The power of attorney would have to be recorded with the probate court of the county in which the transfer occurred.

The person would have all parental rights except to consent to marriage or abortion, to terminate parental rights, or to modify an existing support or other order. Child support would follow the child. Parents could not sign over their children during a divorce or custody proceeding unless agreed upon by both parents or authorized by the court order. The person receiving custody could not be a sex offender and must undergo a background check. Parents with sole custody would have to notify the noncustodial parent, and signing over a child would be grounds for a custody modification hearing. Parents subject to a DFCS investigation would not be able to sign over their children. Powers of attorney must be recorded with the probate court.

HB 190 (Hanson, 80th) – Antenuptial Agreements

This legislation require antenuptial agreements to be written and notarized. It would no longer require recording of proceedings involving antenuptial agreements.

HB 344 (Dempsey, 13th) – Allow Nonparents to Request Paternity Tests

This legislation would allow third parties involved in the enforcement of child support orders to request a paternity test unless a paternity test has already been performed, the

father adopted the child, the child is a product of artificial insemination, or DHS already offered testing and the requesting party declined.

HB 670 (Powell, 32nd) – Legislative and Judicial Appointments to the Georgia State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision

This legislation would add an appointee by the Speaker, Lt. Governor, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Georgia State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision that handles the return of delinquent juveniles to their home states. Currently, legislative and judicial appointments are optional.

HB 906 (Dempsey, 13th) – Extended Youth Care Services, Information for Child Placements, and Exempt Foster Parent Information from Open Records

This legislation would allow people that age out of foster care to voluntarily continue foster care services from DFCS until age 21 so long as the person works, attends school, or is physically incapable of working. The person’s case worker would develop a transition plan to enter the person into extended youth care, and the case would be reevaluated every 60 days to see if continuing foster care is needed. DFCS would notify the court of the extended care and the details of the case within 120 days of an extended youth placement, and the court would hold a hearing to review the case each year.

Within 30 days of placing a child, DFCS would be required to provide the legal custodian, foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative with the child’s medical, mental health, legal, and health insurance and Medicaid information. It would also be required to provide information about how to enroll the child in school, information on available financial assistance, information on the “reasonable and prudent parenting” standard, and contact information for the county DFCS office immediately upon placement.

It would also exempt current or former foster parents’ personal data held by DHS, such as contact information and financial records, from disclosure under an open records request.

HB 920 (Dempsey, 13th) – Allow DFCS to Share Child Abuse Records with the Child Advocate

This legislation would allow DFCS to share adoption records that would otherwise be sealed with the Office of the Child Advocate after a child dies, nearly dies, or is an alleged victim of abuse or neglect.

Financial Regulation

HB 780 (Williamson, 115th) – Financial Institutions

This legislation would allow banks and credit unions to offer any services authorized under federal law after notifying the banking commissioner who would be able to object if he or she thought offering that service would jeopardize the bank or credit union. It would require financial institutions to notify the department within ten days of changing chief executives.

It would require the banking commissioner to notify the chairs of the House and Senate Banking committees after issuing a granting a banking service power to a bank. It would clarify that regulations apply to covered companies' affiliates. It would allow for non-confidential investigation information to be shared with the Nation-wide Multistate Licensing System and Registry. It would the requirements for a 2/3 shareholder vote for a financial institution to buy back stock, amend its articles of incorporation, merge, limit its directors' liability. It would provide that financial institutions that hire directors that aren't required to undergo a background check prior to being hire would have to do so with in ten days.

Health Care and Human Services

SB 321 (Tillery, 19th) – Increase Fine for Medicaid Fraud

This legislation would index the fines for Medicaid fraud to the federal fine level.

SB 444 (Unterman, 45th) – Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan Advisory Council

This resolution would create the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan Advisory Council under DHS with a board of executive, legislative, and aging community designees and six gubernatorial appointments that are a provider, a researcher, an advocate, a medical professional, a caregiver, and person with dementia. It would identify priorities in addressing dementia-related issues and maintaining an up to date state work plan outlining steps the state can take to address those priorities.

SB 406 (Strickland, 17th) – Uniform Background Checks for Elder Care Providers

This legislation would create a uniform background check process for employees of personal care homes, assisted living communities, private care homes, home health agencies, hospice providers, nursing homes, and adult day cares. It would apply to any owners, employees, or volunteers with any level of direct access to patients. It would not apply to owners that are completely uninvolved in the operation of the facility and do not maintain an on-premises office or contractors that do non-patient related jobs like construction or professional services. Applicants that have not live in Georgia for two years would need to be checked in each state they had lived over that period. Crimes

where the sentence was disposed of more than ten years ago would not be on the background check except for serious crimes such as violent crimes, sex crimes, elder or child abuse, attacking a police officer, and DUI

Professional sanctions would cause an applicant seeking to perform that profession to fail in the same manner as a criminal conviction. DCH could order background checks as part of an abuse investigation.

It would create civil immunity for anyone that tried in good faith to comply with the process and immunity for facilities that have done a background, except for cases based on information the facility knew or reasonably should have known about.

It would also allow DCH to create a caregiver registry of employees and owners that have already passed or failed background checks to facilitate expedited checks.

HB 65 (Peake, 141st) – Joint Study Committee on THC Medical Oil Access and add Pain and PTSD

This legislation would create the Joint Study Committee on THC Medical Oil Access to study access to THC oil, including production.

It would also allow doctors to prescribe THC oil to chronic pain patients that had been unresponsive to other therapies for six months and PTSD patients.

HB 513 (Dickerson, 113th) – Signs for Medical Facilities Where Once Can Surrender a Newborn

This legislation would direct DCH to create a sign that would be placed at medical facilities, fire stations, and police stations where it is legal to surrender a newborn.

HB 769 (Jasperse, 11th) – Increase Rural Hospital Credit to 100% and Rural Development Council Recommendations

This legislation would increase the tax credit for donations to rural hospitals from 90% of money donated to 100% and allow members of S Corps and partnerships to receive it as well.

It would allow hospitals to remotely order from out of state pharmacies when their in-house pharmacies are closed in the same manner as they can order from in-state pharmacies. Remote orders would be allowed when the in-house pharmacists will be present the next business day, not within 24 hours.

It would create the Rural Health System Innovation Center at a Georgia college under DCH to study rural health issues, make recommendations about rural health delivery, and develop a mandatory training program for hospital board members and CEOs.

It would direct DCH to study an expedited billing and credentialing process for providers that participate in the state health benefit plan, Medicaid, and PeachCare.

It would increase the threshold under which counties are classified as rural and a CON is not needed to relocate a medical facility or expand an imaging center from 35,000 to 50,000 people. It would allow the purchase of hospitals that are closing or have been closed for less than a year to be turned into ERs with 2-7 beds that operate 24/7 without a CON.

It would direct the Board of Physician Workforce to create a grant program to pay malpractice premiums for board certified physicians with over 100 hours of continuing education, that practice in an underserved area, that accept Medicaid and Medicare, and that have weekend or extended hours, subject to appropriation.

HB 831 (Rogers, 10th) – Georgia's Employment First Act

This legislation would create the Employment First Georgia Council under DHS to provide job services to disabled people that can work with assistance and make legislative and budgetary proposals to increase the number of disabled people that are able to work. It would be comprised of relevant agency heads and representatives of the disabled, business, and disability support communities.

HB 844 (Houston, 170th) – Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing

This legislation would reconstitute the Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired as the Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing and expand the board from 7 to 12 members. The new members would be added to the Governor's existing five appointments and more specificity would be added about their positions in the hearing impaired or hearing impaired services communities. It would create a multiagency task force of 8 appointees from DOE, DECAL, and DPH that deal with the hearing impaired appointed by the Commission to make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. It would create a stakeholder advisory council of 13 hearing impaired people, parents of hearing impaired children, and educators that work with the hearing impaired appointed by the Commission to provide the Commission with information and best practices on how to educate hearing impaired children. It would create a process to track hearing impaired children to provide services to them to keep them at grade level.

HB 909 (Silcox, 52nd) – Neonatal and Maternal Health Care Standards

This legislation would allow hospitals and other providers of maternal and neonatal care to apply for certification by DPH as providing a certain level of care for maternal and neonatal care based on levels and standards of care for each level developed by DPH. DPH would develop the standards and a self-assessment tool by July 1, 2019.

Healthcare Professionals

SB 364 (Hufstetler, 52nd) – Allow up to Eight Anesthesiologist PAs

This legislation would allow physicians to supervise up to eight physician assistant anesthesiologists, instead of the usual four. The supervision limits of two to four depending on situation would be unchanged.

SB 382 (Martin, 9th) – Involve DPH in Optometrist Injectable Training Curriculum

This legislation would require that training programs for optometrists to provide injectable treatments developed with input from the Department of Public Health.

SB 422 (Unterman, 45th) – Allow Pharmacists to Administer any OTC Tests

This legislation would allow pharmacists to administer any over the counter drug or disease test, not just blood tests for disease. The pharmacist would report the results to the patient's physician.

Health Insurance and Medicaid

SB 118 (Unterman, 45th) – Expand Autism Coverage to 21

This legislation would expand the existing autism coverage mandate to cover people up to age 20. Currently, it only applies to children 6 and under. The annual cap for applied behavior analysis would be increased from \$30,000 to \$35,000. Applied behavior analysis would have to be approved by the insurance company, and autism drugs would not have to be covered in the same manner as other drugs under the plan.

SB 370 (Wilkinson, 50th) – Waiver of First \$25,000 of Deceased's Medicaid Debts

This legislation would waive Medicaid claims against the first \$25,000 of the estate of deceased Medicaid recipients.

HB 818 (Hawkins, 27th) – Providers Can't Require HMOs and Managed Care Plans to Pay by Credit Card

This legislation would prohibit healthcare providers from requiring payments from HOAs and managed care plans in contracts entered into after January 1, 2019. Plans with existing contracts would notify their providers of other options and provide instruction on how to change to lower fee options.

Higher Education

SB 82 (Jackson, 2nd) – HOPE for National Guard and Reserves

This legislation would allow Georgia residents that are in the National Guard or the reserves to receive HOPE without waiting to establish residency in the same manner as currently allowed for active duty military.

SB 339 (Ligon, 3rd) – Campus Speech

This legislation would require the Board of Regents to implement a policy to protect students' rights to free speech and equal access to public forums but allow for time, place, and manner restrictions. The Board of Regents would determine sanctions and would report annually on free speech issues encountered on its campuses.

HB 448 (Williams, 119th) – Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission

This legislation would reconstitute the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission by reducing the size of the commission to 11 members as of July, 2018 by decreasing the size as terms expire. It would eliminate the requirement that one member be appointed from each congressional district. It would require one or more members to represent degree granting institutions and one or more members to represent certificate granting institutions. Currently, both have exactly two representatives, and no other members can be employees of private colleges. It would also require one or more members to represent exempt institutions, such as institutions performing specific job training or that have been grandfathered out of regulation.

It would provide that the commission has authority to receive and investigate complaints that a non-accredited law school that is otherwise not regulated by the commission has failed to properly provide federally mandated institutional information, such as tuition policies, academic instruction offered, and accreditation.

It would direct the commission to promulgate rules for private postsecondary institutions not regulated by the commission to demonstrate their eligibility for exemption from regulation.

It would change the provision requiring one member of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund to be from a degree granting private institution and one to be from a certificate granting institution and simply require two representatives to be from private institutions by 2020.

HB 432 (Dubnik, 29th) – HOPE for Schools that Lose Accreditation

This legislation would allow students attending colleges that lose accreditation but had been accredited within the past five years to receive HOPE scholarships and tuition equalization grants.

Insurance Other than Health Insurance

SB 350 (Walker, 20th) – Insurers Exempt from Disclosure of Unchanged Information Policies

This legislation would no longer require insurance companies or agents to provide notice of their information collection practices at the time of renewal or application when the collection practices have not changed since the last notification and nonpublic data is collected in accordance with state law.

SB 381 (Thompson, 14th) – Domestication of Out-of-state, Unregulated Surplus Line Insurers

This legislation would allow out-of-state insurance companies that issue surplus line policies for high risk situations at rates that may exceed state rate limits and have at least \$15 million in assets to domesticate in Georgia without losing the unregulated status they would have as an out-of-state insurer. State solvency limits would still apply.

HB 64 (Blackmon, 146th) – Require Commissions for Insurance Agents

This legislation would require any health insurance carrier that issues or renews a policy through an agent to pay that agent a minimum commission determined by the Department of Insurance, other than plans sold during a special enrollment period triggered by an event such as changing jobs or having a child.

HB 592 (Lumsden, 12th) – End Sunset on Insurer Self-Audit Privilege

This legislation would remove the July 1, 2018 sunset on a law making insurance company's voluntary self-audit reports privileged and not admissible in court.

HB 754 (Shaw, 176th) – Insurance Company Spinoffs

This legislation would allow insurance companies to split into multiple companies pursuant to a plan that handles how the company would be split up, including how policies and stock would be split up. The plan would be approved pursuant to the insurer's bylaws, or absent a provision in the bylaws, approved by the process that would be used to approve a merger, at which point the plan would be submitted to the Insurance

Commissioner for approval. It would no longer require the Attorney General to sign off on Department of Insurance Rules.

HB 760 (Lumsden, 12th) – Allow Home and Auto Insurance to Reduce Coverage when Renewing

This legislation would all home and automobile insurers to issue renewal policies that contain reduced coverage so long as notice of the coverage reduction is provided to the insured with at least 30 days' notice.

HB 878 (Clark, 147th) – Insurance Cancellations

This legislation would allow insureds to cancel insurance policies orally and electronically in addition to in writing. Insurance companies would be able to require written, electronic, or other recorded verification before the cancellation would take effect. Insurers would document the cancellation in the policy file.

HB 938 (Taylor, 173rd) – Credit Insurance Agencies

This legislation would allow companies offering credit insurance that insures against losses by businesses that sell on credit to obtain an agency level credit insurance license instead of requiring each employee to obtain a credit agent license. The company would have to conduct background checks and determine fitness, provide at least five hours of initial training and two hours of annual training, and maintain an up to date list of employees and locations with the Insurance Department.

Judicial Process

SB 127 (Kennedy, 18th) – Standing for Victim's Rights Notification

This legislation would allow a victim whose notification rights are violated to file a complaint with the court and seek a hearing and order on the violation. It would not create grounds for a suit for monetary damages.

SB 194 (Stone, 23rd) – Garnishment Cleanup

It would clarify that earnings not subject to garnishment would be 30 hours at \$7.25/hour (\$217.50) regardless of whether the garnishee is being paid on a weekly basis. It would clarify that accepting service or identifying one's residency in any pleading establishes one's address. It would provide that defendants/garnishees and third party claimants may not act in each other's cases. It would correct several non-substantive drafting errors.

SR 146 (Kennedy, 18th) – Marsy’s Law

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to create a victim’s rights process where victims would have the option to receive notification of all proceedings and be heard in any proceeding involving the release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole of the perpetrator. It would not oblige the state to provide an attorney for a minor, deceased, or incapacitated victim. Victims whose rights are violated would be able to seek a court order to enforce them but not to sue for monetary damages.

HB 790 (Efstration, 104th) – Administrative Hearings

This legislation would provide that administrative law judges are the ultimate decision maker in hearings, except in cases from constitutional boards and commissions, agencies overseen by an elected constitutional officer, and professional licensing boards. Decisions would still be appealable. ALJs would be able to issue subpoenas in the same manner as a regular court. It would require agencies to refer cases for administrative hearings within 30 days, or a party would be able to file a petition directly with OSAH. It would allow ALJs to issue civil penalties of \$100 to \$1,000 for improper conduct or improper or frivolous pleadings.

It would also no longer subject the Board of Regents to administrative process and hearing regulations.

HB 808 (Nimmer, 178th) – Change Start of Waycross Court Terms

This legislation would change the dates on which terms of the Waycross Judicial Circuit start and provide that the grand jury would not need to be empaneled on the first day but may be empaneled at the discretion of the court.

HR 993 (Efstration 104th) – Business Courts

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to create a state-wide business court to handle pre-trial proceedings in business-related cases. Final trial would be in the local court. Business court judges would be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for five year terms. The General Assembly would have establish the court by general law.

Counties would retain the ability to create their own business courts. Parties in a case before a county business court could agree to remove it to the state-wide court.

K-12 Education and Pre-K

SB 3 (Tippins, 37th) – Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act

This legislation would limit the requirement for schools to provide career oriented learning to only apply to grades six through twelve and clarify that it includes work based learning programs such as internships. It would also no longer allow career awareness to satisfy the requirement. Current law requires career oriented learning in all grades but does expressly reference work based learning.

It would expand “move on when ready” to include enrollment in college and technical school courses in skilled trades and emerging technology fields in addition to the current provision for areas with an employment shortage. It would direct TCSG to consult with industry representatives what fields are eligible. Students would be eligible for work based learning at 15 instead of 16.

It would include TCSG and industries in the development of content standards for career-path focused curricula along with DOE, include industry standards in the curriculum standards, and add energy to the list of careers available for focus. DOE and TCSG would maintain a list of industry credentials required in Georgia to be provided to students.

It would direct all curriculum, testing, graduation, etc. standards to use standards from relevant industries and, when appropriate, industry credentialing programs where students are able to receive a nationally recognized certification or state license. DOE would produce an annual report of the effectiveness of industry credentialing programs.

It would create state grant programs to assist in the purchase or upgrade of equipment needed to promote career education in areas with a workforce need, skilled trades, and emerging technology fields. Multiple school systems could apply for grants for shared facilities. It would also establish grants for high schools to partner with technical schools and college and career academies to promote industry credentialing programs.

SB 362 (Tippins, 37th) – Innovation Assessment Pilot Program

This legislation would direct DOE to create a pilot program to study different assessment models, such as cumulative assessments, competence or instructionally embedded assessments, and interim assessments. The program would be from three to five years, as determined by DOE, and include ten school systems or consortiums of systems implementing the same alternate assessment. School systems would be selected on a competitive process that would include compliance with their charter or strategic waiver contract. The participating systems would be exempt from standard testing requirements. DOE would be authorized to contract with a third party to develop the alternate assessments and a separate, independent third party to analyze the assessments.

SB 401 (Tippins, 37th) – Career Interests in Graduation Plans and School Counselor Review and Five Term Dual Enrollment for GMC

This legislation would add career oriented aptitudes and career interests to middle schoolers' graduation plans that are used when determining what classes to enroll a student in for ninth grade.

It also calls for a review of each school counselor by the Department of Education prior to December 31, 2018 to determine the counselor's credentials, effectiveness at career guidance, and the schools review programs for school counselors and report back to the General Assembly.

It would also require colleges participating in dual enrollment programs to provide enrollment and student record data to GOSA which would annually measure and evaluate the program.

It would also include age appropriate sexual abuse and assault education in during sex education.

HB 494 (Dempsey, 13th) – Background Checks for Child Care Workers

This legislation would add battery of an unborn child, reckless conduct causing harm to a minor, cruelty to children, knowingly allowing an ineligible convict to work at a child care center, sexual exploitation of minors, electronically providing obscenity to minors, child pornography, obscene telephone contact to minors, DUI when a child is endangered, and failure of a mandated reporter to report child abuse to the list of crimes that makes someone ineligible to work at an child care program. It would require an employer to consult the sex and child abuse registries in addition to performing a background check.

It would allow hearsay in emergency hearings to determine whether to close or place monitors in a child care facility after a child's death. It would also provide that background checks are no longer valid for employees of child care programs that receive federal money when the employee has left employment for more than 180 days.

HB 740 (Nix, 69th) – Require Multi-Tier Intervention Before Long Expulsions for Kids Third Grade and Younger

This legislation would prohibit public schools from expelling or suspending for more than five days kids in preschool through third grade without going through a multi-tiered behavior innovation process. If a child preschool through third grade is to be expelled or suspended for more than five days and has an IEP, it would trigger and IEP review

meeting. These limitations would not apply to children caught with weapons or drugs or children that endanger the physical safety of staff and students.

HB 763 (Nix, 69th) – School Climate Study and School Safety Plans

This legislation would task county school attendance protocol committees with also analyzing school climate and make recommendations to improve test scores, teacher morale, and attendance and reduce negative factors such as suspension and dropouts by recommending programs such as the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports and response to intervention, trauma informed care training, and the optimization of local resources through voluntary community, student, teacher, administrator, and other school personnel participation.

It would also require public schools to include collaboration with law enforcement and juvenile courts in their safety plans. Local law enforcement would have to sign off on plans in addition to the local emergency management agency. School safety plans would not be subject to open records.

It would expand state grants for school security to include more technology and require DOE to develop criteria for evaluating a school's physical security needs. Schools would be required to match state funds or show a hardship.

HB 787 (Hilton, 95th) – Charter Schools and Low Income College Scholarships

This legislation would base QBE funding for new state and local charters, state and local charters that offer a new grade, and state and local charters expected to grow by more than 2% on projected enrollment.

It set the added state funds for state charter schools to be the greater of the statewide average local funding, the local funding for district in which the school sits, the greater of the statewide or district capital funding for a brick and mortar, or 25% of the average statewide capital funding for a virtual school.

It would create a grant program to provide additional funds to charter schools deemed high performing by DOE.

It would also provide that DOE's regional educational service agencies would serve state charter schools. It would direct the Department of Audits to compile an annual report on virtual state charter schools.

It also would create a tuition grant program for non-HOPE eligible students with requirements and an award amount determined by the Georgia Student Finance Authority.

HB 852 (Smith, 41st) – Allow Students to Finish Year After Moving Within System

This legislation would allow students that move from one attendance zone to another within the same school system more than halfway through the year to finish out the year in their current school. It would not be available for students with chronic attendance or discipline issues. Transportation would be the responsibility of the parents.

HB 853 (Dempsey, 13th) – Exempt Residents of Psychiatric Facilities from Public School Tuition

This legislation would exempt students in a psychiatric residential treatment facility that attend public school outside their district would not be charged tuition. If the facility is providing education to children unable to leave, it would enter into an MOU with the local school system to count the child toward enrollment, receive funding, and determine who hires the teachers.

Licensed Professionals

SB 425 (Gooch, 51st) – Licensure of Professional Land Surveyors

This legislation would require land surveyors to receive professional licenses instead of just registering with the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Land surveyors seeking to design stormwater, water distribution, or sewer systems would need to take three semester hours of classes and pass the hydrology exam.

Surveyors-in-training would be renamed as surveyor interns and would have to complete 18 semester hours instead of 20 quarter hours, with no more hydrology requirement. Applicants with 15 quarter hours, including five hydrology hours, would be eligible to apply for licensure until July 1, 2020.

SB 461 (Stone, 23rd) – Barbers, Cosmetologists, Etc.

This legislation would provide that relaxing hair falls under the practices of barbering and cosmetology and that one does not need an esthetician (eyelash, eyebrows, body hair) license to be a makeup artist or apply cosmetics in a retail environment. It would no longer require DPH to approve rules about hygiene standards made by the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers but would allow local ordinances to impose stricter regulations. It would allow inspections any time a shop is open in addition to regular business hours.

It would give anyone applying for a certificate of registration as a barber, cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, nail technician, or advanced classification two years to complete the test instead of one and provide that board members may attend any examination. It would allow beauty schools to add new courses with five students

instead of fifteen. It would give the board the responsibility to handle records from closed schools, create a curriculum for schools of hair design, and

school curricula. It would provide that regulations apply to all beauty professions, not just barbers and cosmetologists.

It would also classify inserting ink into eyebrows through to enhance appearance or cover for hair loss as tattooing.

HB 956 (Pirkle, 155th) – Veterinarians

This legislation would provide that a veterinarian must be licensed to perform rehabilitation and alternative veterinary medicine such as acupuncture or homeopathy. It would provide that vets can satisfy their veterinarian-patient relationship by arranging for another vet to provide emergency and continuing care. It would allow vets to prescribe VFD drugs that are used in animal feed.

It would remove the restriction prohibiting people who had worked as vet school faculty in the prior two years from serving on the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. It would give the board inspection power and control over license fees.

Companies would not need to state in their articles of incorporation that they may have vets on staff. It would provide that vet schools must be accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education and add certificates from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards as another way to satisfy the education requirement. Rejections by the board would be appealable.

It would allow the board to waive continuing education requirements for active duty military and remove the limitation on waiving fees for active duty military vets to only be for three years during a national emergency. It would require vet techs to have 10 hours of continuing education. It would no longer allow temporary licenses for out of state and in-training vets and only allow them for military spouses.

It would provide that students and faculty at vet schools could still practice in the private sector, and that anyone could teach continuing education courses in conjunction with vet schools. It would allow graduates of foreign vet schools working toward certification to practice under licensed vets. It would provide that sale of non-prescription antimicrobial feed is not veterinary medicine. It would allow non-vets at shelters to practice under a vet pursuant to a protocol that does not allow diagnosis, prescription, dispensing, or surgery. It would allow vets to volunteer in a state of emergency and allow out of state vets to work for vet schools.

It would eliminate the cap on the number of vet techs a vet can supervise.

Local Governments

SB 262 (Jeffares, 17th) – Deannex Territory from Stockbridge

This legislation would property from the City of Stockbridge so that it could be included in the new city of Eagle’s Landing. It would go into effect if the city of Eagle’s Landing is approved.

SB 263 (Jeffares, 17th) – City of Eagle’s Landing

This legislation would create the new city of Eagle’s Landing that would include territory deannexed from Stockbridge.

SB 324 (Albers, 56th) – Allow Cities to Contract for Bridges that Cross City Limits

This legislation would allow cities to contract with bordering counties to build a bridge that crosses the city limits.

SB 327 (Albers, 56th) – No Longer Require Examination of Unattended Deaths that are not Otherwise Suspicious

This legislation would no longer require coroners to call for a medical examiner’s inquiry of deaths that occur when a person is not attended by a physician but are otherwise not suspicious or unusual.

SB 385 (Jones, 25th) – Burial of Unknown Remains

This legislation would allow the chief medical examiner to choose to inter unidentified remains when the police have exhausted all efforts to identify them and to also disinter those remains if he or she determines that further information or testing could lead to an identification.

SB 397 (Watson 1st) – Real Estate Brokers for Local Governments

This legislation to allow local governments to hire licensed real estate brokers to assist in the sale of real property. The broker shall issue a local public notice to request sealed bids. Additionally, the broker shall create a website to make public any request for sealed bids, questions, responses, dates the public property will be available for inspection.

SB 404 (Brass 28th) – Prohibit Sprinkler Fees

This legislation would prohibit any public water system from charging additional fees beyond actual costs for fire sprinkler system connections.

HB 354 (Stephens, 64th) – Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center

This legislation would create the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center to oversee the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center instead of the City of Savannah. The board would be comprised of one appointee by each member of the Chatham County delegation, the Chatham County manager, the City of Savannah manager, the president of the Savannah Economic Development Authority, and the president of the Savannah Area Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

HB 257 (Tankersley, 150th) – Penalties for Noncompliant Authorities

This legislation would prohibit local government authorities that fail to register with DCA from receiving state funds in addition to the current prohibition on issuing debt. It would also prohibit local and independent authorities that fail to register from issuing debt in addition to the current prohibition on receiving state funds.

HB 381 (Corbett, 174th) – Abandoned Mobile Home Act

This legislation would allow landowners to ask local governments to inspect mobile homes that have been unoccupied for 90 days and either the rent hasn't been paid, most belongings have been removed, insurance has been cancelled, utilities have been terminated, or it creates a hazard. The government would classify the home as intact or derelict and uninhabitable. If it is intact, the landowner can file a lien against it for unpaid rent and foreclose. If proceeds from the sale exceed the liability to the landowner, he or she would turn the excess funds over to the magistrate court clerk who would pay off other liens and hold the remainder, if any, for one year. If no owner claimed the balance, it would be handed over to the local government that did the inspection.

If it is derelict, the government would place notice on the home, and the landowner would notify anyone with a known ownership interest or, if no owners are able to be found, advertise in the legal organ that the home is derelict. The owner would have 90 days to contest the decision in magistrate court, at which point the landowner would have 180 days to remove the home.

HB 419 (Silcox, 52nd) – Subject Fireworks to Noise Ordinances

This legislation would subject all non-holiday firework launches to local noise ordinances enacted by July 1, 2018 so long as the ordinances don't specifically target fireworks, not just launches after 9:00 p.m. Fireworks would be allowed statewide on Memoria Day

and Labor Day in the same manner as New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July. The extension to 1:00 a.m. would remain solely for New Year's Eve. It would also apply drought restrictions on fireworks when DNR declares a state 1 drought instead of the Governor declaring a drought and would prohibit fireworks during a drought even on New Year's and the Fourth of July. It would also require fireworks dealers to place a sign telling people to check local ordinances, follow safety labels, and be mindful of one's neighbors.

HB 489 (McCall, 33rd) – Post Local Bids on State Procurement

This legislation would require local governments to post bid offers for goods and services of more than \$10,000 and construction contracts over \$100,000 to the Georgia Procurement Registry. Bids may also be advertised in the legal organ or any other method the local government uses to advertise bids.

HB 876 (Corbett, 174th) – Preempt Local Governments from Limiting Wood Construction

This legislation would preempt local governments from limiting the use of wood in construction beyond the restrictions in the fire code.

HB 995 (Newton, 123rd) – Procurement Consultant Code of Conduct

This legislation would implement a code of conduct for consultants involved in local government procurement to avoid conflicts of interest including by not bidding on proposals they helped write maintaining confidentiality.

Lottery

SB 331 (Henson, 41st) – Confidential Lottery Winners

This legislation would allow state lottery winners to remain anonymous by submitting a written request and paying up to 4% of their winnings for anticipated costs of maintaining confidentiality.

Natural Resources and Environment

SB 332 (Harper, 7th) – Outdoor Mentorship Program

This legislation would create an outdoor mentor program under DNR to pair novice hunters and fishers with certified mentors. Mentors would potentially be eligible for

incentives such as reduced license fees. It would also create a \$50/year nonresident youth sportsman license for people 15 and younger.

SB 451 (Walker, 20th) – Transfer Agricultural Water Monitoring to DNR

This legislation would transfer responsibility to evaluate agricultural water use from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to DNR.

It would require permits to divert surface or ground water for agricultural use issued after April 20, 2018 to require the permittee to install a water-measuring device within one year. People with permits from before July 1, 2003 would be able to install them. People with permits from after July 1, 2003 that are not withdrawing water must obtain a water measuring device before beginning to withdraw water.

It would eliminate the \$250 cost of an agricultural water use permit.

SB 458 (Wilkinson, 50th) – Conservation Easements

This legislation would allow taxpayers that win an appeal that their property is eligible for a CUVA easement to recover court costs. It would also accrue interest on refunds and additional tax liabilities that are not paid within 60 days of the appeal. Interest on refunds would be capped at \$5,000.

It would no longer require a plat survey to receive an easement. It would allow property owned by any nonprofit recreation club to obtain an easement, not just 501(c)(7) social clubs. It would allow records of income or expenses related to conservation use to satisfy the additional evidence requirement for parcels under ten acres.

It would allow owners of property that is subject to conservation use and being operated as a family owned farm that is 95% or more controlled by close relatives to opt out of conservation valuation with no penalty when the classification has been renewed at least once and at least one person that had been a continuous owner at least since the second to last valuation was entered has reached age 65.

HB 85 (Powell, 171st) – Timberland Use Tax Assessments and Change Forestry Use Easements

This legislation would create a separate property tax assessment process for property used exclusively to grow timber developed in conjunction with the Georgia Agricultural Statistical Service, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Georgia Forestry Association, and the State Forestry Commission. Timberland property must be at least 50 contiguous acres, must be primarily used to grow timber for commercial purposes, and must be actively managed as forest land. The valuation must be at least 175% of the value that

the property would have if it were subject to a forestry use easement. Appeals would be heard by the Georgia Tax Tribunal.

It would provide that timberland property is assessed at 40% of its fair market value while land under a forestry easement would be assessed at 40% of its conservation use value.

It would increase local assistance grants used to offset the cost to counties of forestry use easements for administrative purposes by 80% of the cost to local governments of eliminating the 2008 valuation freeze in 2019, by 60% in 2020, by 40% in 2021, and by 20% in 2022.

It is the enabling legislation for HR 51 and would also incorporate the constitutional changes eliminating the 2008 valuation freeze, requiring owners to own at least 100 acres in each county, and reducing the time period for covenants from 15 to 10 years.

HB 205 (Meadows, 5th) – Fracking

This legislation would regulate hydraulic fracturing in Georgia. It would require public notice to be given of any application for fracking, including the fluid to be used and the estimated amounts and disposal methods of wastewater. The board would determine regulations to monitor groundwater within 1/2 mile of any borehole, disclosure of the fracking fluid so long as trade secrets are protected, provisions for the disposal of fracking fluids, and provisions for decommissioning bore sites and other facilities. It would raise from 75% to 85% the percentage of ownership that needs to sign off on a unitization contract when DNR determines that an entire oil or gas pool needs to be operated as a single resource for environmental protection purposes.

It would also allow the Board of Natural Resources to delegate oil and gas permitting to an Oil and Gas Board consisting of the state geologist and three appointees of the Governor in any year in which it receives 12 or more permit applications.

It would increase the permit cost for a non-water well from \$25 to \$500 and allow for public notice and input. Applicants would have to provide notice directly by a sign on the closest road, delivery to property owners within 1/2 mile, and a legal ad. Permits would include requirements for testing well casings, requirements for maintaining roads affected by drilling or fracking, and buffers to protect neighboring property owners from noise or pollution. It would raise the maximum bond for drilling from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

It would expressly allow local governments to issue further land use restrictions.

It would levy an extraction tax of 3¢ per barrel of oil and 1¢ per thousand feet of gas. Local governments would be able to levy a tax of up to 9¢ per barrel of oil and 2¢ per thousand feet of gas.

HB 332 (Watson, 172nd) – Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act

This legislation would earmark 40% of state sales tax revenues from sales at outdoor recreation equipment stores as defined by the 2007 North American Industry Classification to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to be used for state parks, local parks of regional significance, defraying the cost of conservation easements to local governments and acquisition and upkeep of conservation land used for the provision or protection of clean water, wildlife, hunting, or fishing, for military installation buffering, or for natural resource-based outdoor recreation.

If state sales tax revenues drop by 1% or more, the earmarked amount would be reduced by 20%, and if revenues drop 1% or more in the next year, the earmark would be reduced by 50%.

The fund would only be able to acquire real property in or adjacent to wilderness management areas or state parks, land identified in a state wildlife action plan, riparian land to protect drinking water supply, or land adjacent to military bases. It would also be able to issue grants to local governments and nonprofits. The fund would be overseen of a board of the relevant state agency heads, two appointees by the Speaker, and three appointees by the Lt. Governor.

It would dedicate up to 10% of the fund to offset lost local tax revenues in counties where the state has used Outdoor Stewardship funds to purchase more than 20,000 acres of property that amounts to more than 10% of the county's tax base.

HB 885 (McCall, 33rd) – Prohibit DNR from Prohibiting Clearing Land by Burning

This legislation would prohibit DNR from implementing any rules prohibiting burning vegetation on agricultural parcels five acres and larger for existing, expanded, or new agricultural use.

HR 51 (Powell, 171st) – Timberland Use Tax Assessments and Change Forestry Use Easements

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to allow the General Assembly to create a separate property tax appraisal standard and appeal process for property used to grow timber. The assessed value must be at least 175% of what the appraised value would be if it was subject to a forestry use easement.

It would also eliminate the 2008 property value freeze used to calculate local assistance grants to offset the cost of forestry use easements to counties and instead calculate fair market value every three years beginning with FY 16. The General Assembly would be allowed to appropriate funds through 2023 in excess of the constitutional calculation of 50% of the first 3% in reduced tax digest plus 100% of any further reduction. It would allow the state to keep up to 5% of the assistance grants for administrative purposes.

It would also reduce the time frame an owner must keep a parcel under a forestry use covenant from 15 to 10 years and would require people seeking forest use covenants for parcels that cross county lines to own at least 100 acres in each county.

HR 238 (Watson, 172nd) – Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund

This resolution would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to dedicate up to 80% of state sales tax revenues from sales at outdoor recreation equipment stores as defined by the 2007 North American Industry Classification to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund for the purpose of protecting and preserving conservation land.

Public Safety

SB 409 (Harper, 7th) – Obey Rail Crossings for All Rolling Stock

This legislation would clarify that drivers to stop at railroad crossings any time that rolling stock or other equipment is crossing, not just for trains.

HB 309 (Barr, 103rd) – State Immunity from State Defense Force Activities

This legislation would provide immunity to the state from damages, other than from vehicle accidents, relating to activities of the State Defense Force in the same manner as currently exists for the National Guard.

HB 79 (Pezold, 133rd) – Storage of Collected License Plate Data

This legislation would mandate that law enforcement agencies destroy license plate data collected from automated cameras within 30 months of being collected unless the data is being used to for a law enforcement purpose or to enforce a toll violation and would allow captured plate data to be shared between law enforcement agencies. It would be a high and aggravated misdemeanor to obtain plate data through misrepresentation. Plates would not be subject to open records.

HB 635 (Cooper, 43rd) – Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team

This legislation would allow DAs to create the Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Teams consisting of law enforcement, state and local public health officials, and private nonprofits serving at risk individuals to coordinate and review elder abuse cases and make recommendations to improve the process at the local level. It

would give GBI subpoena power to investigate elder abuse. It would also provide that DHS would share all records and investigation statuses with prosecutors and law enforcement.

HB 657 (Petrea, 166th) – Straw Purchases

This legislation would establish a five year sentence for firearm purchasing a firearm on behalf of another or aiding that purchase and establish that it is also a felony to knowingly provide a firearm to someone on felony first offender status with a penalty of 1-5 years for a first offense and 5-10 years for a subsequent.

HB 673 (Carson, 46th) – Require Hands-free Devices While Driving

This legislation would require any use of a cell phone or similar device while driving to be hands free. It would not prohibit dash cams, CB and ham radios, commercial radios, subscription emergency devices, medical devices, or when reporting or responding to an emergency.

Violation would be punished with a \$50 fine and 1 point for a first offense, a \$100 fine and 2 points for a second, and a \$150 fine and 3 points for a third or subsequent. The charge would be waived for a first offense when the driver has purchased a hands-free device.

HB 703 (Hitchens, 161st) – Office of Public Safety Officer Support

This legislation would create the Office of Public Safety Officer Support under the Department of Public Safety to hire and certify peer councilors and provide counseling services to officers experiencing PTSD or other trauma.

HB 809 (Hitchens, 161st) – Allow Single Color State Patrol Cars

This legislation would allow the State Patrol to use cars painted a solid color.

HB 834 (Ballinger, 23rd) – Allow Domestic Violence Victims to Break Leases

This legislation would allow domestic violence victims to break leases with 30 days' notice upon providing the landlord when a protective order has been issued protecting the tenant or his or her minor children or an abuser has been released prior to trial or on probation for family violence.

It would provide that temporary protective orders remain in effect until the hearing and increase the time frame in which the hearing must occur from 30 to 45 days.

It would also provide that all moveout inspections would occur within three days of vacation of the property if that occurs before the lease is out. It let landlords have the tenant present for the inspection, at which point they would agree on any damage. If the tenant is not present for the inspection, he or she could challenge the inspection.

HB 978 (Nimmer, 178th) – Speed Cameras in School Zones

This legislation would allow law enforcement to use speed cameras to issue civil fines of up to \$125 plus \$25 in fees, to drivers that speed in school zones. Signage would be required. It would lower the fine for passing a stopped school bus to \$250.

It would direct local governments to refer cases where a civil fine hasn't been paid for passing a school bus or speeding in a school zone to DoR who would refuse to issue a vehicle registration until the fine is paid. It would provide that revenues from automated enforcement should be used for law enforcement purposes. It would eliminate the requirement to send a second notification of a civil fine by certified mail, and people would lose their right to contest a citation after not responding to two first class mailings.

Real Estate and Property

SB 301 (Kennedy, 18th) – Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act

This legislation would allow fiduciaries and persons designated to manage assets through online tools to access digital assets, including electronic communications. It would allow those fiduciaries to receive usernames of online accounts by providing the service provider with a copy of the document authorizing the relationship. The scope of assets available to the fiduciary could be limited by a will, power of attorney, etc. as well as subsequent changes through a web tool.

HB 410 (Powell, 32nd) – Prompt Statements by Property Owner Associations

This legislation would require condo associations, homeowner associations, and other common interest communities to provide account statements containing information about the property to owners, mortgagees, and mortgage lenders within 10 days of a request being sent electronically by hand or had delivery, within 13 days of a request being sent by first class mail, and within 10 days of receiving a request sent by overnight delivery requiring a signature. Statements provided electronically or by hand would be effective for 30 days, and statements sent by mail would be effective for 35 days. If there is an error, the association may provide a corrected version if the sale or refinancing has not been completed.

If the statement fails to list fees, then a buyer would not be responsible for the listed fees. The association would be able to charge up to \$100 for the statement of account, an

additional \$50 for expedited reports delivered within three days, and \$25 if an amended statement is requested. It would also be able to charge an additional \$50 to provide an expanded statement that includes information about association bylaws and any open violations against the property owner. The fees would be adjusted for inflation every five years. If the association fails to provide the statement within the 10 or 13 day window, it would forfeit the fees.

HB 441 (Fleming, 121st) – Self-Settled Spendthrift Trusts

This legislation would allow people to create spendthrift trusts in which assets are protected from creditors that have the creator as a beneficiary. The trust would not protect assets from alimony or child support, back taxes or other government debts, tort judgements, restitution, or judgements for necessities. A creditor could seek to have the creation of the trust considered a voidable transaction made for the purpose of evading debt collection and recover from the trust, and financial institutions would be able to recover any assets in the trust listed on a credit application.

Regulated Industries

SB 17 (Unterman, 45th) – “Brunch Bill”

This legislation would allow localities to permit the sale of alcohol for on premises consumption on Sundays beginning at 11:00 a.m. instead of 12:30 p.m. Local governments would have to hold a resolution to move up the start time.

SB 353 (Anderson, 24th) – Civil Penalty for Boiler and Pressure Vessel Violations

This legislation would impose a civil penalty of up to \$5000 for any violations of boiler and pressure vessel regulations after notice and hearing. It would also allow the Commissioner may bring a civil action to enjoin a violation.

SB 355 (Hufstetler, 52nd) – Sunset New Nuclear Plant Prepayments

This legislation would eliminate the ability for Georgia Power to issue prepayment fees in the same manner it does for Plant Vogtle for any future nuclear reactors.

SB 402 (Gooch, 51st) – Rural Broadband

This legislation would direct DOT to implement a process to lease parts of its rights of way to broadband providers to expand rural broadband. It would direct the DCA to certify local governments that implement policies or eliminate regulations to make

broadband infrastructure permitting easier, including lowering fees to cover actual costs. It would also direct DCA to certify facilities and developments that have gigabit internet available.

It would create a grant program under DCA to facilitate building out broadband statewide.

Local governments would include providing broadband in their comprehensive planning process and service delivery strategy.

It would direct the Georgia Technology Authority to create a statewide broadband delivery plan in conjunction with ISPs and publish an annual report describing what has been done to implement it. It would direct the Department of Economic Development to promote broadband deployment. It would allow OneGeorgia funds to be used for broadband deployment.

HB 475 (Harden, 148th) – Donation Boxes

This legislation would require anyone that places an outdoor charitable donation collection box to get written and notarized permission from all owners, all lessors, or a property management company. If the authorization comes from the owners, the box owner would be required to provide notice to all lessors. Any owner or lessor would be able to demand removal of the box by mail. If the owner fails to remove the box within 30 days, the owner or lessor could remove the box and bill the owner for any costs. A box for which notice had not been provided could be removed at any time. Box owners must maintain the boxes and empty them at least every two weeks and ensure make sure items don't sit on the ground outside the box for more than two days. Violations would be punished by a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for a single violation and of up to \$5,000 for multiple violations.

HB 717 (Kelley, 16th) – Consumer and Franchise Protection for Autonomous Vehicles

This legislation would provide that the Fair Business Practices Act, the Georgia Motor Vehicles Franchise Practices Act, and the Georgia Lemon Law apply to autonomous vehicles.

HB 761 (Ridley, 6th) – Optional Electronic Car Dealer Title Applications

This legislation would make the requirement that all applications by car dealers for certificates of title beginning January 1, 2018 optional.

HB 785 (Nix, 69th) – Plastic Pyrolysis Facilities

This legislation would classify pyrolysis facilities that heat plastic in a low oxygen environment until it decomposes into liquid fuel as a recycling facility not a solid waste facility.

HB 792 (Rogers, 10th) – Increase Landfill Tipping Fee

This legislation would increase the tipping fee from \$1/ton to \$2.50/ton for waste at private landfills, effective July 1, 2019. The surcharge on coal as would remain \$1/ton through June 30, 2025 and be \$2/ton after. The tipping fee for construction waste would remain at \$1/ton. 50% of the fees would be used to mitigate the impact of the facility and solid waste management in general.

It would also extend the sunset of that fee and the hazardous waste disposal fees earmarked for the hazardous waste trust fund from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019.

Revenue and Taxation

Process

SB 371 (Anderson, 24th) – Allow Locals to Request Tax Records

This legislation would allow local governments to obtain the sales tax certificates of businesses located in their jurisdiction. It would allow local governments to validate the location of businesses. All information would be required to be treated as confidential. Current law only allows Atlanta to request sales tax information and doesn't expressly provide for verification.

HB 61 (Powell, 171st) – Out of State Sales Taxes

This legislation would require non-Georgia companies that sell \$250,000 worth of goods or conduct 200 sales into Georgia to collect sales taxes or provide immediate notice to customers and send the customers and DoR an annual notice outlining their tax liability. It would also apply to virtual goods delivered electronically. Failure to provide the immediate notice would be a \$5 fine per failure and failure to send either a customer or DoR notice would be a \$10 fine per failure. It would allow DoR to seek a declaratory judgement that a seller is required to collect taxes but would direct the courts to enjoin the state from requiring collection if it finds a constitutional issue.

HB 374 (Knight, 130th) – Property Tax Appeals

This legislation would require counties extending the appeal period by 180 days when more than 3% of parcel valuations or due to unforeseen circumstances approved by DoR are being appealed to notify all appealing taxpayer of the extension. It would require appellants to request any evidence at least ten days prior to the hearing. It would allow a taxpayer and the county to agree on a valuation at any time, not just after certification, and an agreed lower valuation would still trigger the two year wait where a county can't raise a valuation after a successful appeal. If the county fails to respond to an appeal within 180 days, the taxpayer's asserted valuation would become the fair market value and the two year restriction on another valuation would apply.

It would increase the minimum pay for a hearing officer from \$75 to \$100 for the first hour; the \$25 minimum for subsequent hours would be unchanged. If the parties and county agree on a higher rate it would be paid by the parties, not the county. It would also allow for appeal documentation to be transferred electronically.

In the event of arbitration, that arbitrator would be required to give 21 days' notice instead of 10. On appeal to superior court, the taxpayer would be able to reschedule the required settlement conference to any time during regular business hours instead of being limited to 30 days, and after a conference has convened, it could be continued to a later date.

It would also reduce the threshold for eligibility to have an appeal of the value of nonhomestead property and cell towers heard in an administrative hearing with an appeal to superior court from \$750,000 to \$500,000.

HB 389 (Powell, 171st) – Modify TAVT

This legislation would fix the division of the TAVT to be 35% to the state with the remaining 65% being split 51%/49% between the county and the schools for vehicles registered outside a city. For vehicles registered in a city, the split would be 28% to the county, 23% to the city, and 49% to the school district covering the city. MARTA and water authorities created by a local constitutional amendment would receive an amount equal to the sales taxes on vehicles received in 2012 out of the local share. The county could keep up to 1% of the total TAVT revenues for administration before applying the formula.

It would reduce the tax for new residents to Georgia to 3% of the fair market value of the vehicle. Owners of charter busses that carry more than 15 passengers could pay 50% of the TAVT up front and 50% within one year. Vehicles donated to a nonprofit that are then titled would be taxed at 1% of fair market value instead of as a salvage titled vehicle.

It would allow owners of 1962 or earlier vehicles to obtain a title for \$20 plus a 1% TAVT split 50/50 between the state and county. It would provide that transfers when a business is reorganized, from an owner to a company, or from a company to an owner to obtain a prestige plate would not be taxable transfers. It would allow vehicles retitled

after a divorce that are under the old system to stay under the old system and vehicles under the TAVT system to be retitled for a 1% TAVT split 50/50 between the state and county.

It would set the tax on a leased vehicle used for business that allows for the adjustment of the rental price at the agreed upon value and provide that for other leased vehicles the value includes any down payment in addition to the sum of the monthly payments. It would only allow a reduction for a trade-in if the name of the owner and VIN of the trade-in is listed on the bill of sale. Kit cars would be valued at the greater of the selling price of the kit or the book value of the car.

It would allow a 30 day extension when a purchaser is still waiting on the title. All titles would be handled by counties.

HB 661 (Williamson, 115th) – Tax Liens

This legislation would limit tax liens to only attach to property in the county that is due the taxes instead of statewide. It would require an execution to be filed in the county where the property is located, in addition to the owner's last known address, and it would eliminate the bona fide purchaser exemption where purchasers can get a certificate of title showing no liens. It would require DOR to file executions within five years of the assessment. It would also let the Clerk's authority set lien indexing procedures by rule.

HB 729 (Harrell, 106th) – No Recording Tax Exemption on New Debt

This legislation would provide that the exemption from the .3% to a maximum of \$25,000 recording tax when refinancing security instruments does not apply to any additional loan added when refinancing.

It would also repeal language related to the phase out of the state property tax that has occurred.

HB 820 (Beskin, 54th) – Limit Atlanta Property Tax Assessments

This legislation would cap an increase in Atlanta property tax assessments at 4.23% (inflation rate) for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018 and limit assessment increases to 2.6% for subsequent years. It would be subject to a statewide referendum.

HB 811 (Powell, 171st) – Contract to Analyze Sales Tax Payments

This legislation would allow DoR to contract with a private company to do data analytics to look for noncompliant sales tax payers. Contracts could be for up to three years, it must include all taxpayers in any North American Industry Classification System sectors to be

analyzed, and would not involve the contractor contacting taxpayers. The contractor would not be able to retain any data. Compensation based on collections would be permitted.

HB 840 (Hitchens, 161st) – Exempt Deployed Soldiers from Overdue Tax Penalties

This legislation would exempt soldiers deployed to combat zones from interest and penalties on state and local taxes and fees so long as all taxes and fees are paid within 60 days of the soldier's return to the US.

HB 849 (Peake, 41st) – Tax Return Adjustments

This legislation would provide that partnerships and S corporations would report the final adjustments to their federal tax returns to the Department of Revenue through their federal partnership representative or someone else designated by the partnership or S corp. It would allow partnerships to elect to pay or receive the tax adjustment from an amended federal filing at the partnership level, instead of by each partner.

It would also allow the Revenue Commissioner to establish an amount below which taxpayers are not required to report federal adjustments to DoR and file an amended state return.

HB 886 (Watson, 172nd) – Agricultural Equipment Sales Tax Exemption

This legislation would increase the threshold for annual crops or agricultural services required to qualify for the agricultural equipment sales tax exemption from \$2,500 to \$5,000. It would allow producers that don't file the available federal forms to prove eligibility to file other documents, at which point DoR would determine eligibility. It would allow for three year certificates of eligibility and increase the application fee from \$25 to \$150. The Department of Agriculture would report annually to the General Assembly the number of new certificates of eligibility, the number of renewed certificates, and the number of revoked certificates.

HB 888 (Knight, 130th) – Freeport Exemptions

This legislation would provide that applications for a freeport exemption on inventory would be filed as a summary on forms provided by DoR and that clerical errors don't invalidate an application. Counties would have 180 days to deny the exemption for any property or the application would be considered accepted. It would provide that the substantial assembly of finished parts qualifies as manufacturing. It would provide that applications erroneously treated as filed late would generate a credit against future tax liability.

Tax Cuts and Expenditures

SB 328 (Albers, 56th) – Sunset Three Rarely Used Tax Credits

This legislation would sunset after 2018 the \$25 per employee tax credit for businesses the pay for employee transportation or parking, a tax credit of up to \$150 one per child for the cost of driver's education classes, and a tax credit for up to 10% of the cost of an auxiliary power unit used on trucks over 26,000lbs to avoid the need to at truck stops.

HB 217 (Carson, 46th) – Raise SSO Cap

This legislation would raise the annual aggregate cap for dollar for dollar tax credits for donations to student scholarship organizations from \$58 million to \$100 million through 2028, at which point it would revert to \$58 million. Instead of issuing tax credits on a first come, first served basis. SSOs would be required to disclose any fees or assessments retained by the SSO. It would increase the percentage of revenues that must go to scholarships from 90 to 92% of the first \$1.5 million, from 93 to 94% up to \$10 million, from 94 to 95% up to \$20 million, and from 95 to 96% on revenues above \$20 million. The state auditor would issue an annual economic analysis of the program. DOR would set the date for SSOs to submit their annual report instead of fixing it in statute, and the report would also have to include the average scholarship amounts by quartile.

It would also create a sales tax exemption for noncommercial materials and mailings by nonprofits through July 1, 2021.

HB 696 (Kelley, 16th) – Data Center Equipment for Data Centers

This legislation would create a sales tax exemption for data center equipment for data centers with an investment of at least \$100 million in a county under 30,000 people, \$150 million in a county of 30,001 to 50,000 people, an \$250 million in a county over 50,000 people. Companies would be subject to recapture, plus interest, if the data center is not completed with seven years of beginning to take the exemption, and DoR could require companies to post a \$20 million bond, which would be forfeited and applied toward back taxes if the project is cancelled or not completed in time. The exemption would sunset January 1, 2029. Companies receiving the exemption would not also be able to take economic development income tax credits.

HB 697 (Taylor, 173rd) – Health Center Sales Tax Exemptions

This legislation would extend the sunsets on the sales tax exemption for sales to community health centers that provide the primary care services in underserved areas

required to receive federal funding and nonprofit volunteer health centers that primarily serve people with incomes under 200% of the federal poverty level.

HB 735 (Bentley, 139th) – Tax Expenditures

This legislation would create an income tax credit for Class III short line railroads with revenues under about \$36 million of 50% of maintenance expenses to a maximum of \$3,500/mile on tracks they owned as of January 1, 2018. Any credit received would reduce the basis of the track by that much, and the credits could be assigned one time after January 1, 2019. The credit would sunset January 1, 2024.

It would exempt land covered by ballast and rails in a railroad’s right of way from stormwater fees. It would exempt all state owned railroad property from stormwater fees.

It would create a tax credit of 5% of the cost of expanding a facility that recycles plastic into carpet in a Tier 1 county that spends at least \$20 million on expansion and creates at least 25 new jobs by January 1, 2020.

HB 749 (Blackmon, 146th) – Tax Cuts on Military Retirement Income

This legislation would classify military retirement payments as retirement income that qualifies for a tax exemption on the first \$35,000 for the permanently disabled and people 62-65 and \$65,000 for people over 65. It would also exempt income based on the service record of a deceased soldier paid to a surviving family member from taxation.

HB 793 (LaRicca, 169th) – Reinstate Aquarium Renovation Sales Tax Exemption and Create Car Museum Construction Exemption

This legislation would reinstate the sales tax exemption on materials for renovations at the Georgia Aquarium through 2022. The cap would be \$4.5 million. It would also create a sales tax exemption for construction of a car museum through 2020. It would be capped at \$960,000.

HB 843 (Shaw, 176th) – Job Creation Tax Credit Near Military Bases

This legislation would extend the five year, \$3,500/employee job creation tax credit in low income areas to include areas designated by the Commissioner of Economic Development in a county with a military base with 5,000 or more personnel and an industrial park owned by a governmental entity, regardless of poverty rate.

HB 871 (LaRicca, 169th) – 50% State Sales Tax Exemption for Mobile Homes

This legislation would exempt mobile home sales from half of the state sales tax when the mobile home is affixed to real property owned by the purchaser and the owner converts it to real property by filing with the county. Local, MARTA, etc. taxes would be unaffected.

HB 918 (Efstration, 104th) – Tax Cuts

This legislation would reduce the top tax rate from 6% to 5.75%, lower the corporate tax rate from 6% to 5.75%, double the standard deduction, and eliminate the TAVT on obtaining a replacement title for a vehicle 15 or fewer years old if there is sufficient evidence that it no longer exists. It is also the annual IRS update.

Sunset Extensions

HB 658 (Ehrhart, 36th) – Extend Cobb Galleria and Energy Center Hotel/Motel Tax Sunset

This legislation would extend the sunset on the 8% hotel/motel tax that funds the Cobb Galleria and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center from 2028 to 2053.

HB 929 (Efstration, 104th) – Extend MOST Three More Times

This legislation would allow the City of Atlanta to renew the 1¢ sales tax used to fund the sewer system for three more four year periods.

Retirement and Pensions

SB 197 (Black, 8th) – Require Future Legislation Allowing Employees to Buy Credit to be at Full Cost

This legislation would require any future retirement bills that allow employees to buy credit for years other than those worked, such as for time as a part time employee or working for a different employer, to be purchased at full actuarial cost. Employees would be able to spread the cost into monthly payments over 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 10 years.

SB 333 (Black, 8th) – Allow Auto-enrollment of Local Government Employees Into 401(k) Plans

This legislation would allow local governments to automatically enroll employees in 401(k) and other retirement plans. It would also allow local governments to pay retirement account fees as part of employee compensation.

SB 369 (Kirk, 13th) – Pretrial Fine for Peace Officers’ Benefit Fund

This legislation would collect a \$5 fine from anyone that enters a pretrial diversion program to be paid into the Peace Officers’ Annuity and Benefit Fund.

HB 135 (Hitchens, 161st) – Allow DDS and DOC Investigators to Buy Retirement for Local Government Service

This legislation would allow DDS investigators and Department of Corrections investigators and K9 handlers to buy retirement credit at full actuarial cost for time spent as a full time employee of a local government in the same manner as other state law enforcement officers.

HB 398 (Battles 15th) – Add Dentistry Investigators to Peace Officer’s Annuity and Benefit Fund

This legislation include POST-certified Georgia Board of Dentistry Investigators eligible in Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund.

HB 571 (Watson, 172nd) – Retirement Annuities for Magistrates

This legislation would allow retired magistrates to receive an annuity for the duration of the magistrate and his or her designated survivor’s lives or an annuity that continues to pay 50% designated survivor after the magistrate’s death. The payment from the annuity would be calculated to have the same actuarial cost as traditional retirement. A designated survivor would be a relative by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a married magistrate’s designated survivor would be presumed to be his or her spouse unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the spouse.

It would also provide that magistrates that fail to pay dues for 90 days would be suspended and may only be reinstated and continue receiving credit during the first 30 days of his or her next term.

State Government

HB 899 (LaRicca, 169th) – Don’t Exclude Contractors Based on Inexperience with Delivery Method

This legislation would prohibit the state or local governments from denying a bid solely based on the bidder’s inexperience with the construction delivery method in the proposal.

HB 973 (Jones, 47th) – Require Lobbyists to Abide by Sexual Harassment Policy

This legislation would require lobbyists to abide by the same sexual harassment policy that applies to state employees, and they would be required to certify each year that they had read and understand the policy and will abide by it.

State Agencies, Authorities, Boards, and Commissions

SB 338 (Ligon, 3rd) – Overriding Agency Rules

This legislation would allow the General Assembly to override or provide an earlier effective date a pending rule without requiring a committee to object first. The objection would be a joint resolution subject to veto by the Governor. The effective date of non-emergency rules passed prior to December 1 to be March 15 and the effective date of non-emergency rules passed after December 1 to be March 25 in the year after the next, so the General Assembly would be in session before non-emergency rules are adopted. Emergency rules would be effective upon signage by the Governor for a period of up to 120 days and may be overridden while in effect.

It would allow members to vote to vote by phone when a committee is objecting to a rule, if allowed by chamber rules. It would also require any notice of a proposal to repeal a rule to include the text of the rule proposed to be repealed and would make other technical changes.

SB 377 (Strickland, 17th) – Transfer Workforce Development Board to TCSG

This legislation would transfer the Workforce Development board that applies the federal Workforce Development Act from the Department of Economic Development to the Technical College System of Georgia. The new board would implement all oversight functions by rule.

SB 445 (Gooch, 51st) – Road Contracts and Surplus Property

This legislation would extend the requirements that contractors examine sites and address the subsurface and other latent site issues in their bid and that GDOT will not pay extra if the contractor incurs costs due to a failure to analyze the site to apply to all contracts, not just federal-aid ones. Contractors would submit their E-Verify affidavits along with bids. It would allow bids to be advertised through GDOT's website instead of newspapers.

It would prohibit camping in GDOT rights of way.

It would allow surplus property to be sold for 15% under market value instead of market value. It would allow the use of any real estate broker, not just brokers located in the county with the surplus property.

It would also prohibit cities created between May, 2017 and January 1, 2019 (South Fulton) from restricting commercial vehicle access to its roads.

SR 794 (Miller, 49th) – Joint Georgia-North Carolina and Georgia-Tennessee Boundary Line Commission

HB 701 (Tanner, 9th) – Add All Opioids to State Employee Drug Test

This legislation would test state employees subject to a drug test for all opioids, not just opiates.

HB 777 (Greene, 151st) – Repeal Historic Chattahoochee Compact

This legislation would repeal the Historic Chattahoochee Compact that Georgia entered into with Alabama to create a commission to promote conservation and tourism along the lower Chattahoochee.

HB 779 (Powell, 32nd) – Board of Homeland Security

This legislation would create a Board of Homeland Security consisting of state law enforcement directors, state agency heads, and five security related appointees by the governor, including a sheriff, a police chief, a senator, and a house member to develop a statewide homeland security policy.

It would also create an Emergency Operations Command consisting of the GEMA director, the GBI director, the Public Safety Commissioner, the Natural Resources Commissioner, the DOT Commissioner, and the adjutant general of the National Guard that would have the authority to activate GEMA to oversee all aspects of terrorism response. It would charge GEMA with processing security clearances for state employees instead of the GBI's Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center

HB 816 (Gravley, 67th) – Require all DoR to Undergo Background Checks

This legislation would require all new and existing employees of the Department of Revenue as well as any employees of contractors that would have access to tax return information to undergo a fingerprint background check and to undergo subsequent checks at least every ten years.

HB 751 (Powell, 32nd) – Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

This legislation would create the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority under GEMA to collect 9-1-1 fees from carriers and disburse them to local governments based on where the fees were collected. Revenues would be disbursed to local governments monthly.

The authority would be overseen by a board consisting of the public safety commissioner or a designee, the revenue commissioner or a designee, the POST director or a designee, and three 9-1-1 directors, a county commissioner, a county manager, a city councilmember or mayor, a city manager, two telecom industry representatives, a sheriff, a police chief, and a fire chief, all appointed by the Governor.

It would require phone and VoIP companies to update their local government filings within 60 days of a change instead of semiannually and a company that fails to update that information would be subject to a fine of \$1000/day and be liable for missed payments older than the usual three year exemption while noncompliant.

It would provide that county 9-1-1 systems are countywide when no cities have imposed 9-1-1 fees.

It would fix the 9-1-1 charge to be \$1.50 everywhere instead of allowing for local governments to charge lesser amounts. Carriers would no longer be required to list the 9-1-1 fee as a separate line item. The cost recovery fee on subscribers would be increased from 35¢ to 45¢.

HB 795 (Gravley, 67th) – DoL Background Checks

This legislation would allow the Department of Labor to conduct fingerprint background checks on all new and existing employees that will have access to taxpayer information.

HB 856 (Deffenbaugh, 1st) – Add Commissioner of Community Supervision to the Public Safety Board

This legislation would add the Commissioner of Community Supervision to the Board of Public Safety.

HB 867 (Hitchens, 161st) – POST Council

This legislation would increase the number of POST Council members needed for a quorum from 7 to 11. It would POST investigators to keep their weapons and badges upon retirement. It would allow candidates to retake the entrance exam for law

enforcement training more than once every 30 days and not require college graduates to take the test at all. It would eliminate state certification of police chaplains.

HB 951 (Shaw, 176th) – Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation

This legislation would create the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation under the University System to serve as an information and research hub to study rural leadership training and economic development. It would be overseen by the Georgia Rural Development Council comprised of six gubernatorial appointees representing different economic development areas, three appointees by the Speaker from different parts of the state, and three appointees by the Lt. Governor from different parts of the state.

HR 943 (Morris, 26th) – Joint Georgia-North Carolina and Georgia-Tennessee Boundary Line Commission

Memorials, Dedications, License Plates, Etc.

SB 356 (Kirkpatrick, 32nd) – Holocaust Memorial

This legislation would direct the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to design and build a Holocaust memorial, subject to the availability of private funding. It would also add two legislative oversight appointments for the Commission so that there would be one House and Senate member from each party instead of a single member from each chamber. It would transfer the commission from the Secretary of State to DCA.

SR 537 (Beach, 21st) – Close Mitchell Street

This resolution would close the block of Mitchell Street between the Capitol and the CLOB.

SR 685 (Jackson, 2nd) – Rename Runaway Negro Creek

This resolution would rename Runaway Negro Creek as Freedom Creek.

SR 745 (Millar, 40th) – Road Dedications

SR 821 (Martin, 9th) – Fort Gordon Cyber Security and Information Technology Innovation Corridor and the Savannah Logistics Technology Innovation Corridor

HB 287 (Kirby, 114th) – Gold Star Plate Eligibility

This legislation would allow up to two nuclear family members of a service member killed in action to receive gold star plates at no cost. Current law provides one free plate to any surviving mother, father, or spouse.

HB 671 (Dunahoo, 30th) – Honeybee License Plate

This legislation would create a special license plate recognizing the state insect, the honeybee with funds earmarked to the Georgia Beekeepers Association for use in bee conservation, education, and beekeeper training programs.

It would also increase the model year for which a classic car owner can use a model year appropriate Georgia license plate from 1970 to 1989 and allow the use of plates within four years of the model year of the car.

HB 695 (Epps, 144th) – License Plates

This legislation would create a “Play Tennis” license plate where \$10 of the \$35 plate goes to the Georgia Tennis Foundation and an Alabama A&M license plate with \$10 to the Alabama A&M Alumni fund. It would move the Aquarium license plate to the model where \$22 of the \$35 goes to the aquarium.

It would create a “#1 in Forestry” license plate where \$22 goes to fund the Georgia Forestry Foundation and a Sickle Cell Foundation license plate with \$22 to the Sickle Cell Foundation. The plates would go into law July 1, 2019.

It would also allow non-certified volunteer firefighters to receive distinctive firefighter plates and put the requirement to return a firefighter plate upon ceasing to be a firefighter for a reason other than retirement on the firefighter not the fire department.

It would allow DOT to waive the requirement that government vehicles have regular license plates.

HB 784 (Dubnik, 29th) – Waterfowl License Plate

This legislation would create a Waterfowl license plate where \$10 of the \$35 special plate fee goes to fund the DNR Wildlife Division or the purposes of waterfowl habitat restoration, waterfowl research, and waterfowl management.

HB 815 (Martin, 49th) – Mason’s License Plate

This legislation would create a special license plate for the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation with funds earmarked for the foundation.

HR 279 (Stovall, 74th) – Designate March 21 as Single Parent Day Each Year and Designate September 1 as Childhood Cancer Day Each Year

HR 444 (McCall, 33rd) – Road Dedications

HR 1090 (Watson, 172nd) – Road Widening

HR 1103 (Greene, 151st) – Conveyance Resolution

HR 1104 (Greene, 151st) – Easement Resolution

Transportation

SB 391 (Beach 21st) – Exempt Transit Vehicles from Motor Carrier Regulations

This legislation will exempt transit service buses, vehicles, and rapid rail systems from motor carrier, limousine, ride share, etc. and hazardous material regulations.

HB 714 (Rogers, 10th) – Federal Transportation Regulation Update

This legislation would update state law to incorporate federal transportation regulations made during 2017.

HB 898 (Powell, 32nd) – Fleet Vehicle Licenses

This legislation would reduce the minimum size of a vehicle fleet to qualify for a fleet license from 1000 to 100. It would remove the added fee and audit requirements for companies that have not been in Georgia for ten years. It would allow rental car companies to get fleet licenses. It would remove the statutory provision that companies may apply for fleet licenses between December 1 and February 15 and let the Revenue Commissioner set the period instead. It would reduce the enrollment fee from \$200 to \$50. It would provide that registration stickers for fleet vehicles would say “FLEET.” It would only allow the transfer of fleet plates to a new vehicle upon registering the vehicle and paying the registration fee.

It would also allow non-certified volunteer firefighters to receive distinctive firefighter plates and put the requirement to return a firefighter plate upon ceasing to be a firefighter for a reason other than retirement on the firefighter not the fire department.

HB 930 (Tanner, 9th) – ATL Commission

This legislation would create the ATL Commission to provide transit services in non-MARTA counties in metro Atlanta. See Appendix B.

Veterans and Military

HB 422 (Hitchens, 161st) – Georgia Veterans Service Foundation

This legislation would allow the Department of Veterans Service to establish a nonprofit to solicit grants and donations to provide grants to support war veterans' homes and veterans' cemeteries.

HB 699 (Belton, 12th) – Exempt Veterans from Part Time and Volunteer Firefighter Training

This legislation would exempt veterans from the basic training requirement for part-time and volunteer firefighters.

HB 700 (Belton, 112th) – Service Cancelable Loans for National Guard Members

This legislation would expand the National Guard service cancelable loan program to include any degrees, not just undergraduate, and to be available to Guard members that do not meet residency requirements. Applicants would be required to fill out a FASFA apply for all other available scholarships, grants, etc., and the service cancelable loan would make up the difference. The maximum loan amount would be that of the tuition at highest state university, not UGA. Students would only be able to get loans to cover for 120 hours, not five years. It would allow the adjutant general of the Guard to waive the two year service requirement for good cause.

HB 718 (Scott, 76th) – Allor Students with Active Duty Parents to Attend Military Events

This legislation would allow students with parents on active duty to miss up to five days during each of two school years to attend military affairs events pursuant to documentation from the VA or a 501(c)(19) veterans' organization such as the American

Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars, so long as the student would not exceed their maximum number of absences.

HB 739 (Williams, 168th) – Tracey Rainey Act

This legislation would name the existing law that allows military spouses to get expedited teaching certificates the Tracey Rainey Act.

Study Committees

Joint Study Committees

HR 898 (Coleman, 97th) – Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process

Senate Study Committees

SR 467 (Unterman, 45th) – Senate Study Committee on Service Animals for Physically or Mentally Impaired Persons

SR 484 (Harbison, 15th) – Senate Study Committee on Creating a Lottery Game to Benefit Veterans

SR 489 (Ligon, 3rd) – Senate Study Committee on Prescribing Patterns for Antidepressants and Other Psychotropic Medications

SR 503 (Jackson, 2nd) – Senate African American History and Culture Study Committee

SR 506 (Dugan, 30th) – Senate Study Committee on the Excessive and Duplicative Regulatory Oversight of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD)

SR 761 (Millar, 40th) – Senate Study Committee on Dyslexia

SR 832 (Mullis, 53rd) – Senate Study Committee on Risks Associated with Kratom

SR 882 (Jones, 25th) – Senate Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Operations and Authority Creation Study Committee

SR 914 (Davenport, 44th) – Senate Emergency Pursuits By Law Enforcement Officers Study Committee

SR 935 (Albers, 56th) – Senate School Safety Study Committee

SR 977 (Williams, 39th) – Senate Study Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

SR 995 (Beach, 21st) – Senate Study Committee on Combat Sports

SR 1019 (Ginn, 47th) – Senate Advanced Communications Technologies and Use of State and Local Government Right of Way Policy Modernization Study Committee

SR 1049 (James, 35th) – Senate Cross Media Development Study Committee

SR 1063 (Watson, 1st) – Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need Reform

SR 1064 (Sims, 12th) – Senate Study Committee on Continual Audit Exceptions on Local School Systems

SR 1067 (Jones, 10th) – Senate Study Committee on the Financial Impact of Atlanta Annexation on Schools

SR 1068 (Gooch, 51st) – Senate Study Committee on Evaluating the School Year Calendar of Georgia Public Schools

Bills Failed in the Senate

SB 418 (Wilkinson, 50) – Preempt Pet Store and Other Store Ordinances

This legislation would prohibit local governments from prohibiting the sale of goods regulated by the USDA, the FDA, or the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Bills Only Passed by the Senate

Bills Not Considered by the House

SB 31 (McKoon, 29th) – Require Two Board of Community Health Members to be on SHBP

This legislation would require at least 2 members of the Board of Community Health to be active participants in the state health plan, one of which must be a teacher and one must be an employee. Of those two members, one must be retired, and one must be a current employee.

It also would create a State Health Benefit Plan Customer Advisory Council to advise DCH on components, provisions, elements, strategies, marketing, and customer satisfaction of the state health benefit plan. It would be 12 health plan members appointed by the commissioner from nominations of employees and retirees from large state departments.

SB 39 (Unterman, 45th) – Increase Penalty on Pimping and Pandering

This bill would increase the penalty for pimping to be a felony punishable by one to ten years in prison. It would increase the penalty for a third or subsequent conviction for pandering to be a felony punishable by one to ten years. The first two offenses would remain high and aggravated misdemeanors. It would require people convicted for a second or subsequent pandering offense when they are soliciting sex on behalf of a third party or knowingly assembling people for the purpose of prostitution to register as sex offenders. It would also mandate both prison and a fine for people convicted of maintaining a house of prostitution, pimping, or pandering involving a person under 16. Current law requires 10 – 30 years in prison or a fine of up to \$100,000 or both.

SB 74 (McKoon, 29th) – Parental Notification Waiver for Minor Abortion

This legislation would increase the burden of proof for a minor seeking a waiver for parental notification of abortion to be clear and convincing evidence.

SB 101 (Ligon, 3rd) – Allow DNR Employees to Buy Retirement Credit for Prior Hourly Employment

This legislation would allow state employees with at least two years' service currently in the defined contribution retirement plan to buy into the defined benefit plan by paying the full actuarial cost for the time sought. Members would be able to spread the cost out into monthly payments over a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 10 years.

SB 107 (Millar, 40th) – Add May 10 Disclosure

This legislation would add a May 10 disclosure date before the general primary in election years. It would also remove the December 31 election year disclosure that is largely redundant due to the January 31 non-election year disclosure. PACs would still file December 31 disclosures.

SB 129 (Rhett, 33rd) – Allow Veterans to Buy Retirement Credit for Time on Active Duty

This legislation would allow retired veterans to buy credit in the Employee's Retirement System. Veterans who have at least two years of membership in ERS would be able to buy up to five years credit by paying the full actuarial cost of the time sought. Veterans would be able to spread the cost out into monthly payments over a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 10 years. It would only apply to military service since January 1, 1990.

SB 184 (Hufstetler, 52nd) – Integrated Population Health Data Project

This legislation would create the Integrated Population Health Data Project to collect and analyze aggregated and de-identified health related data from state agencies about people receiving public assistance. The project and Georgia Health Policy Center would assemble a consortium of resources from universities and medical schools to analyze the data. It would release an annual report outlining the anonymized data that it collected. All data must be maintained to HIPAA standards. It would be overseen by a board of agency heads and appointees from the data research community.

SB 228 (McKoon, 29th) – Increase Penalty for Illegally Operating Lights or Sirens

This legislation would allow the use of sirens when escorting a funeral procession or other parade and increase the penalties for illegally operating an emergency vehicle with lights or sirens to be a \$500 misdemeanor for a first offense, a \$1000 misdemeanor for a second offense, and a felony with a suspended license for a subsequent offense.

SB 232 (Gooch, 51st) – FIBRE Act

It would allow EMCs to provide broadband, VoIP, and wireless service in their service area and within five miles of their service area. The EMC would file a petition with the Georgia Technology Authority that a given area does not have internet with speeds of 25mbps down and 3mbps up, and other providers would have 45 days to notify GTA that addresses in the proposed area have broadband before GTA would grant the permit.

EMCs would not be able to use gas or electric revenues to subsidize broadband, use revenues from broadband to provide gas and electric or vice versa, or provide customer information about broadband customers to their gas or electric divisions or affiliates. EMCs would have to continue to rent pole space to other providers on a neutral basis. EMCs would need a franchise to provide TVs. Any EMCs offering broadband prior to January 1, 2018 would be grandfathered and could keep operating as they are.

SB 236 (James, 35th) – Notify DFCS When Parent gets DUI with Child in Car

This legislation would direct prosecutors to report parents or guardians convicted of a DUI with their child under 14 in the car to DFCS for a child neglect investigation.

SB 248 (Harbin, 16th) – Require Life Insurers to use a Policy Locator Service

This legislation would require life insurers to review the NAIC life insurance policy locator service through which people can register that a relative has died and receive information about where they might have life insurance. It would sunset after 2022.

SB 257 (Heath, 31st) – Require State Vet to Certify Animal Cruelty

This legislation would require a prosecutor to get a veterinarian approved by the Agriculture Department to sign off that animal cruelty has occurred before bringing a case for abuse of a cow, pig, goat, or sheep.

SB 293 (Black, 8th) – Employers Must Pay Contributions for TRS Retirees

This legislation would require public employers that employ a Teachers' Retirement System beneficiary to pay both the employer and employee share. The retiree would not continue to earn credit. It would be the employee's responsibility to notify the employer that he or she receives retirement.

SB 294 (Black, 8th) – Allow ERS Retirees to Work Part-time for the State and Collect Retirement

This legislation would allow retired state and university system employees that have reached retirement age to work up to 1,040 hours/year for the state or a contractor and continue to receive retirement benefits.

SB 309 (McKoon, 29th) – Vote Suppression and Special Primaries

This legislation would eliminate the 8pm polling time extension for Atlanta and require all polls to close at 7PM.

It also would require a special primary and special election when a vacancy occurs in a partisan seat. There would be no runoff in a special primary for state or local office. Parties that nominate by convention would be able to nominate candidates for special elections by convention.

It would allow the governor to set a special election for legislative races more than 60 days out. If a vacancy occurs in the General Assembly with fewer than 12 months left in the term, the Governor has the discretion to hold a special election or primary.

SB 318 (Rhett, 33rd) – Involuntary Commitments by EMTs and Paramedics

This legislation would establish a one year pilot program under DCH in at least two urban counties to examine allowing EMTs and paramedics to transfer people to the ER for a psychiatric evaluation. The department would issue a report on the program and legislative recommendations by June 30, 2019.

SB 325 (Kirkpatrick, 32nd) – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act

This legislation would enter Georgia into the Interstate Medical License Compact to provide expedited medical licenses to physicians already licensed in a member state. The compact would create an interstate information and disciplinary process and would create the Interstate Medical Licensure Commission to oversee the compact. The compact is currently in effect with 22 member states.

SB 334 (Unterman, 45th) – Remove Board of Nursing from Secretary of State

This legislation would transfer the Georgia Board of Nursing from under the Secretary of State to be an independent licensing board administratively attached to DCH.

SB 335 (Unterman, 45th) – Expand Human Trafficking Applicability

This legislation would expand the definition of sex trafficking to include those who patronize sexually explicit conduct from a person subject to sexual servitude in addition to solicitation. It would also make patronizing and solicitation a felony for victims of all ages, not just minors.

SB 337 (Unterman, 45th) – Non-Retroactive Admissibility of Statements by Minor Abuse Victims

This legislation would provide that out of court statements made by minors under 16 describing sexual or physical abuse are only admissible for cases began after the bill is signed into law.

SB 349 (Jackson, 2nd) – Use Veteran’s Health ID for Notarizations

The bill would allow notary publics to confirm a document signor’s identity with a valid Veteran’s Health Identification Card.

SB 351 (Unterman, 45th) – Allow Physicians to Supervise up to 8 APRNs

This legislation would allow physicians to supervise eight APRNs at a time instead of four. It would allow advanced practice registered nurse protocols to allow the nurse to order MRIs and other imaging in all situations, not just life threatening ones.

SB 354 (Jackson, 2nd) – In-State Tuition for Service Members at TCSG

This legislation would classify active duty military members that live in Georgia to receive in-state tuition at technical schools even if they do not otherwise meet residency

requirements. TCSG would annually report how much tuition revenue is lost due to the waiver.

SB 358 (Rhett, 33rd) – Banking Improvement Zones

This legislation would allow local governments to apply to DCA to create a banking improvement zone that covers a region with limited access to financial institutions. The local government could then choose a bank in the zone to be the depository of the local government's funds and accept an interest rate lower than the current two-year interest rate. DCA would only allow a banking improvement zone if the favorable interest rate does not violate the gratuities clause.

SB 359 (Hufstetler, 52nd) – Surprise Bills

This legislation would require physicians to disclose to patients by publication or online the contact information of any providers they contract with 48 hours in advance, when possible. It would require hospitals to put their standard charges online, what networks they're in, a notice that physician's fees are not included, and a list of all contracting physicians. Hospitals would advise people to check to see if physicians are in network and provide information on how to check.

Insurers would notify customers that they can get an out of network referral when a qualified doctor isn't geographically available, that a pregnant customer can get all ob/gyn services covered in network, a list of in-network providers, and how out of network charges are handled.

Emergency care would be covered, regardless of whether the provider is in network. The provider would receive the lesser of the actual charge or the 80th percentile of similar procedures in that geographic area. The insurer would collect copayments, etc. from the insured as if all charges were in network. Insurers would arrange for people to be transferred somewhere in network within 24 hours of being stabilized or would be liable for the provider's full charge.

In the case of an unexpected change related to elective care that results in an out of network bill, the Department of Insurance would offer mediation. The process would be implemented by rule.

SB 366 (Gooch, 51st) – Study Local Law Enforcement Pay and Grants for Raises

This legislation would require local governments to do a compensation study for all law enforcement officers compared to other nearby jurisdictions pursuant to standards developed by DCA every five years. Local governments would use this information to

create a publicly available, non-binding guidance pay scale. It would also create a grant program to fund pay increases in Tier 1 counties.

SB 363 (Brass, 28th) – Vote Suppression and Faster Advance Vote Counting

This legislation would eliminate the City of Atlanta’s ability to keep the polls open an extra hour until 8:00 for municipal elections. It would also allow counties to start counting in person early votes at 6:00 on election day.

SB 373 (Tippins, 37th) – Add a Judge to Cobb Superior Court

This legislation would increase the number of judges on the Cobb Superior Court from 10 to 11.

SB 378 (Albers, 56th) – Two Year Process for Tax Incentives

This legislation would create a two year process for any tax incentive legislation. Incentives would be introduced in the first year of a two year term but would not be able to pass until a fiscal analysis is done between sessions. The proposed legislation would be sent to the state auditor who would prepare an analysis of the net change in state revenue, the net change in state expenditures, including administration, the net change in economic activity, and the net change in public benefit. Amendments and substitutes prior to the final legislative day would be allowed, but they must receive an economic analysis to be considered.

SB 396 (Shafer, 48th) – Allow Distribution of Cell Phones to the Disabled

This legislation would allow the PSC to distribute cell phones to disabled people that are currently provided landlines as part of the dual party relay system and to implement parts of the program through an app.

SB 411 (Jackson, 2nd) – Georgia Commission on African American Culture and History

This legislation would create the Georgia Commission on African American Culture and History to cultivate African American history in Georgia, manage artifacts and put on exhibits, coordinate with educational and corporate institutions, and disseminate African American cultural historical information. It would produce a report by the end of 2019 on the establishment of a Museum of Georgia African American History and Culture. The Commission would be 20 members appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, and the Black Caucus.

SB 414 (Tippins, 47th) – Require Area Around Donation Boxes to be Kept Clean

This legislation would allow local governments to issue notice to donation box operators and the owners of the property when the area around a box is not kept cleaned up. If the box and property owners fail to clean up within ten days of receiving a notice three times or the surrounding area becomes a nuisance, the government may petition superior court for an order to ban the donation box for three years and assessing costs. If the box is not removed within 30 days, the local government can remove it and bill the property or box owner for costs.

SB 420 (Rhett, 33rd) – Require Gyms to Have Defibrillators

This legislation would require gyms and health clubs with more than 250 members to have at least one defibrillator on premises. DPH could provide by rule for larger gyms to have multiple defibrillators. Gyms would be required to train expected users on how to use the defibrillator. Existing immunity for non-malicious, nonprofessional use would apply in the same manner as for defibrillators in other locations. Gyms that fail to comply would be given notice the first instance and the fined a civil penalty of up to \$2,000/day.

SB 434 (Unterman, 45th) – Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

This legislation would rename the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce as the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce and expand its scope to cover all medical and mental health professionals. It would also add a representative of the Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition to the board.

SB 437 (Payne, 54th) – Require Parental Consent for DNR Order

This legislation would expressly require oral or written parental consent before a do not resuscitate order is issued for a minor. Legal guardians would not be able to consent.

SB 443 (Stone, 23rd) – End-of-Lease Inspections

This legislation would provide that the time frame for security deposit inspections would start upon the termination of the lease, not occupancy, and that the landlord must provide the tenant a copy of the list of damages during the five day tenant inspection period. Failure to provide the list would prohibit the landlord from retaining the deposit. It would also provide that, when a tenant vacates property without notifying the landlord, the landlord would have seven days to do an inspection.

SB 446 (Harper, 7th) – Abandoned Motor Vehicles

This legislation would allow people whose cars have been impounded to file a petition for a judicial hearing, which would stop the impound yard from selling the vehicle. It would require people seeking to foreclose on an abandoned vehicle to notify the Department of Revenue which would post the affidavit online. The owner or lienholder would have five days to pay the debts and costs before the vehicle could be sold. DoR could charge up to \$20 for the filing. The state would receive 1/3 of the proceeds from sales of vehicles impounded on the request of law enforcement. It would increase the threshold from \$300 to \$600 at which an abandoned vehicle is considered derelict and may be sold for scrap.

SB 450 (Payne, 54th) – Allow Deer Baiting Statewide

This legislation would allow deer baiting on public land statewide, not just in the southern half of the state.

SB 452 (Stone, 23rd) – Mandatory Immigration Actions for Criminal Suspects

This legislation would require courts to verify the immigration status of anyone they sentence and check with ICE to see if that person has a detainer saying that they are a non-citizen eligible for deportation. If the suspect is undocumented or has a detainer, DCS and the Parole Board would initiate the process to transfer the person to a federal facility and notify ICE at least 72 hours before releasing the person if they are released pending transfer. If a suspect was on parole, the Department of Community Supervision would notify ICE.

It would make it mandatory for police officers that discover a suspect is undocumented to notify the prosecutor, transfer the suspect to a federal detention facility, or notify Homeland Security and make all optional immigration measures that the criminal justice system has mandatory.

SB 453 (Tillery, 18th) – Limit Incorporations Near Existing Cities

This legislation would only allow new cities to be created within three miles of an existing city when the people seeking to be incorporate have been denied annexation into the neighboring city within the past year and exceeds the population of the existing city.

It would also require new cities to provide five municipal services instead of five.

SB 460 (Beach, 21st) – ATL Commission

This legislation would require MARTA to adopt the “ATL” brand by January 1, 2023. It would provide that bonds issued after January 1, 2019 would be treated as state debt under the ATL Commission instead of local government debt if SB 386 becomes law.

SB 463 (Gooch, 51st) – Allow Direct In-State Electric Car Sales Until 2020

This legislation would allow existing, in-state electric car manufacturers to sell 2,500 cars directly to customers through June 30, 2020. It would allow manufacturers of electric kit cars to certify that the vehicle safety and emissions requirements in lieu of an inspection.

Bills Passed in Identical or Similar Form on Other Bills

SB 348 (Harper, 7th) – Grant Arrest Powers to TCSG Officers

This legislation would grant arrest powers to certified police officers working for technical schools on or within 500 feet of campus in the same manner as applies to university police.

This passed on SB 407.

SB 386 (Beach, 21st) – ATL Commission

This legislation would create the ATL Commission that metro Atlanta counties would join by referendum to levy a transportation tax of up to 1¢ for regional transit.

A version passed as HB 930.

SB 405 (Millar, 40th) – Low Income College Scholarships

This legislation would create a tuition grant program for non-HOPE eligible students that work 15 hours a week, have a family income under \$48,000, qualify for and receive a Pell Grant, have a GPA of at least 2.3, and have scored at least a 21 on the ACT, a 480/530 reading/math on the SAT, a 3 on at least two AP exams, a 4 on at least 2 IB exams, or has completed a federal or state vocational program. The grant would be \$1,500 or pro rated if insufficient funds are available.

A version passed on HB 787.

SB 431 (Tillery, 19th) – Liability for Recreational Land Owners

This legislation would provide that owners of recreational land that charge for access would only be liable for injuries that occur on the day that the injured person paid for access.

This passed as HB 904.

SB 457 (Tate, 38th) – School Lockdown Drills

This legislation would require public and private schools to have drills to practice handling dangerous situations. Public schools would base the drills on their existing school safety plans.

A version passed on HB 763.

HB 972 (Willard, 51st) – Extended Youth Care

This legislation would allow people that age out of foster care to voluntarily continue foster care services from DFCS until age 21 so long as the person works, attends school, or is physically incapable of working. The person’s case worker would develop a transition plan to enter the person into extended youth care, and the case would be reevaluated every 60 days to see if continuing foster care is needed. DFCS would notify the court of the extended care and the details of the case within 120 days of an extended youth placement, and the court would hold a hearing to review the case each year.

Within 30 days of placing a child, DFCS would be required to provide the legal custodian, foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative with the child’s medical, mental health, legal, and health insurance and Medicaid information. It would also be required to provide information about how to enroll the child in school, information on available financial assistance, information on the “reasonable and prudent parenting” standard, and contact information for the county DFCS office immediately upon placement.

This passed on HB 906.

Bills Failed to Pass Both Houses in Identical Form

SB 319 (Albers, 56th) – Consolidation of Fire Safety Services in Georgia Act

This legislation would create the Division of Fire Safety under the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. The division would take on the duties currently held by the Safety Fire Commissioner, the State Fire Marshall, the Safety Fire Division of the Insurance Department, the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, and the Georgia Fire Academy as well as preparedness for fire related terrorism. It would also create the Fire Safety Advisory Board with political, local government, and industry members to

advise the department. Decisions of the department to deny certificates would be appealable to superior court.

SB 342 (Harbin, 16th) – No Impound for Expired Registrations

This legislation would no longer allow law enforcement to impound a vehicle just for an expired registration sticker so long as the owner obtains an up to date sticker by the time they go to court. Officers would still be able to impound vehicles with no plate at all. It would also double the maximum fine for failing to maintain up to date vehicle registration stickers from \$25 to \$50 and provide that owners of vehicles with expired registrations can still be fined if someone else is driving.

SB 367 (Kirk, 13th) – Allow Decease First Responder Payments to Estates

This legislation would allow payment of indemnification for death suffered in the line of duty by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, EMT, EMS, state highway employee, or prison guard to be made to the estate of the deceased and be distributed pursuant to the deceased's will.

SB 368 (Kirk, 13th) – Add Local Technical Support to CJCC

This legislation would charge the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council with providing technical support such as equipment, grant funding, operations, or training to departments that can't adequately provide those services internally.

SB 403 (Thompson, 14th) – Paper Ballots

This legislation would require all elections to be conducted using a voter readable paper ballot printed by an electronic ballot marker and read by an optical ballot scanner by 2024. If the state funded the new machines in the FY 2020 budget, the new machines would be used starting in the 2020 presidential preference primary. Recounts would be done with the physical ballot. The Secretary of State would audit each election to determine accuracy.

SB 426 (Gooch, 51st) – Preempt Local Permitting of Small Cells

This legislation would allow cell providers to install utility poles in public rights to install cells with antennas smaller than 6 cubic feet and total volume of less than 28 cubic feet and to install those cells on existing publicly owned poles, except in places where utilities must be buried. Local governments could charge \$20/cell/year and identifiable costs of up to \$40/cell/year. For new cells, they could charge the lesser of the cost of a building

permit or \$200 for the first five cells and \$100 for subsequent cells. The maximum price would be halved for publicly owned polls. The cells could not extend more than ten feet above the maximum pole height in the area would have to comply with neutral and nondiscriminatory zoning and other ordinances, including requirements to conceal equipment in downtown, residential, and federal historic areas. Local governments could require providers seeking to install polls to certify that collocation would be impractical.

For equipment that is taller than the greater of 50 feet or 10 feet poles within 500 feet, local governments would be able to consider their application through a non-discriminatory process that can consider the proposed height and may charge the lesser of the cost of a building permit or \$1000.

Local governments would not be able to contract for exclusive poll use with a single cell provider.

On-wire wifi and other transmitters smaller than 24”x15”x12” and an antenna under 11” would not require any permits, other than a work permit for the installation.

SB 430 (Brass, 28th) – Raise Local Judicial Official Pay

This legislation would increase the minimum salaries for superior court clerks, probate judges, magistrate judges, sheriffs, tax collectors, and tax commissioners by about 13.5% and then by about another 5% in 2021. Supplemental stipends would be increase accordingly, except that the stipend for probate court judges that also oversee elections would increase by about 19%.

SB 432 (Albers, 56th) – Analyze Tax Expenditures

This legislation would require a fiscal analysis of many income tax credits and sales tax exemptions by 2024, including the sales tax exemptions on food and medicine. A list of the expenditures to be analyzed is attached.

HB 38 (Powell, 32nd) – Allow All Veterans to Get Veterans’ Licenses

This legislation would allow all Georgia veterans that have been honorably discharged to obtain veterans’ driver’s licenses. Current law requires veterans to have been Georgia residents upon enlistment or commission and to have served during wartime.

HB 59 (Stephens, 164th) – Expand Historic Preservation Tax Credit

This legislation would increase the aggregate cap on the income tax credit for 25%-30% of the cost of restoring a historic building from \$25 million to \$40 million. Recipients

would have to own or have a 40+ year lease to be eligible. It would no longer allow the sale of unused tax credits. It would add a July 1, 2023 sunset.

It would also create a \$2,500/car tax credit for assemblers of zero emission vehicles in Georgia that would sunset July 1, 2021.

HB 93 (Corbett, 174th) – Analyze Tax Expenditures

This legislation would require a fiscal analysis of many income tax credits and sales tax exemptions by 2024, including the sales tax exemptions on food and medicine. A list of the expenditures to be analyzed is attached.

It also would require all tax incentives to be sent to the state auditor who would have 30 days to prepare an analysis of the net change in state revenue, the net change in state expenditures, including administration, the net change in economic activity, and the net change in public benefit. Amendments and substitutes prior to the final legislative day would be allowed, but they must receive an economic analysis to be considered. The process could be waived by a 2/3 vote in committee and on the floor.

Taxpayers paying sales taxes pursuant to a direct payment permit would receive interest on overpayments.

HB 149 (Powell, 32nd) – Regulate Trauma Scene Cleanup Companies and Consolidation of Fire Safety Services in Georgia Act

This legislation would regulate by the GBI trauma scene waste management practitioners that clean up after homicides, suicides, and death where there has been advanced decomposition. They would be subject to a \$275 fee pre three year license period. Trauma scene waste management practitioners would be subject to background checks, must post a bond of \$25,000, and must carry insurance of at least \$100,000. Unlicensed trauma scene cleanup would be a civil fine of \$5,000. Trauma scene cleanup companies must provide a good faith estimate. The GBI director would be authorized to issue 90 day permits in the event of an emergency. Property owners would be able to hire unlicensed people that do not regularly engage in trauma scene cleanup.

It would also create the Department of Fire Safety under the Department of Insurance overseen by a board of four fire safety professionals appointed by the Governor, two fire safety professionals each appointed by the Speaker and Lt. Governor, the POST administrator or designee, the president or designee of the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, and the president or designee of the Georgia State Firefighters' Association. The division would take on the duties currently held by the Safety Fire Commissioner, the State Fire Marshall, the Safety Fire Division of the Insurance Department, and the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council as well as preparedness for fire

related terrorism. Decisions of the department to deny certificates would be appealable to superior court.

HB 161 (Price, 48th) – Legalize Needle Exchanges

This legislation would allow people working for needle exchange and similar services that focus on harm reduction and refer people to drug treatment to provide syringes. The programs would have to register with DPH.

It also would prohibit health care providers, including mental health and addiction providers, from offering or soliciting kickbacks, commissions, or other payments for referrals. It would not prohibit group benefit plans, group practice agreements, consultation agreements, insurance agent commissions, gifts of up to \$100, and payments to entities that supply information about providers without directing patients to one or the other. It would be a felony of up to five years and \$50,000 per violation for conduct that affects up to 10 people, up to 10 years and \$100,000 for 10-19 people, and 20 years and \$500,000 for 20 or more people.

It would also prohibit conducting and billing for drug tests other than for the substances orders as well as practices like upcoding and unbundling testing charges. Violation would be a felony of 10-20 years and a fine of up to \$25,000.

It would also create a Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery overseen by a director appointed by the Governor and a board comprised of state agency heads, an accountability court judge, two advocates, and one Senator and one House member to coordinate a response to the opioid epidemic, including making recommendations for the use of Medicaid funds.

HB 162 (Price, 48th) – Income Tax Setoffs

This legislation would allow the Administrative Office of the Court to waive the administrative assistance fee it imposes on debts to the state collected through income tax setoff. The office would only need to remit funds to courts on a quarterly basis.

HB 185 (Coomer, 14th) – Prepare for Business Courts

This legislation would create the Georgia Council on the State-wide Business Court under the Judicial Council to study creating a state-wide business court, including evaluating the subject matters it would hear and its geographical location. The council would be five appointees by the governor, five senators appointed by the Lt. Governor, and five House members appointed by the Speaker. The legislative appointments would include at least one Democratic senator and House member. The council would sunset December 31, 2020.

It would also create the Office of Business Cases under the Judicial Council to advise the council about cases brought under commercial litigation statutes and contract and tort claims with corporations on both sides and potential damages of at least \$1 million.

HB 189 (Nelson, 125th) – Allow Revenue Bonds for Distributing Gas and Electric

This legislation would allow local governments to issue revenue bonds to build infrastructure to distribute gas and electricity. It would require a referendum to issue any revenue bonds for generating, transmitting, or distributing electricity, except that the General Assembly may pass local legislation to exempt local governments (Dalton) with at least \$200 million in electric utility assets from the referendum requirement.

HB 195 (Harrell, 106th) – Expand Charitable Property Tax Exemption

This legislation would extend the property tax exemption for buildings owned by charities used to raise revenue for the charity to apply to buildings used primarily or incidentally to raise revenue, not just buildings exclusively used for that purpose. It would require a statewide referendum.

HB 214 Golick, 40th) – Sponsored Captive Insurance Companies

This legislation would provide for sponsored captive insurance companies that insures its participants through segregated protected cells that keep assets designed to insure each participant separate. The creation of the company and any protected cells would require approval by the Department of Insurance. Protected cells could be separate corporations or just a separately accounted for account under the captive insurance company. They would be taxed at the protected cell level and not combine with other captive insurance companies.

It would also provide that, when determining whether to bundle captive insurance companies, common ownership would be companies with more than 50% common ownership.

HB 271 (Petrea, 166th) – Allow Deer Baiting Statewide, Change Hunting Seasons, and DNR Update

This legislation would allow deer baiting on public land statewide, not just in the southern half of the state.

It would allow DNR to delay the end of deer season from Jan 16. to Feb. 1 for archery in any county for management purposes and add Bibb, Chatham, Clark, and Henry counties to the list that always have an extra bow season to control deer population in populated

areas. It would eliminate the restriction on how many bucks one can take per year and remove the requirement that DNR report the number and sex of deer killed. It would allow DNR to adjust the bag limit by county for management purposes. It would close opossum and raccoon seasons March 1 – Oct. 14 everywhere, not just in north Georgia.

It would allow air guns to be used during primitive weapon season in addition to bows and muzzle loaders.

It is also the annual DNR update that removes a reference to a WMA license that does not exist and incorporates regulations regarding criminal matters made by the DNR board into law.

HB 273 (Douglass, 78th) – Mandatory Recess

This legislation would require all elementary schools to provide at least 30 minutes of recess each day, preferable outside, on days they don't have PE, except when a situation such as bad weather makes it impractical. Recess would not be withheld for academic or disciplinary reasons.

HB 275 (Dubnik, 29th) – Body Surfing and Annual Update

This legislation would require boats pulling body surfers to have a wide angle lens, require body surfers to wear life jackets, and prohibit towing body surfers at night in the same manner as required for water skiing. It is also the annual update to incorporate criminal penalties in DNR regulations passed during 2017 and removes a reference to a wildlife management area hunting license that does not exist.

HB 301 (Lott, 122nd) – Tax Credit for Uncompensated Medical Training and Remove Board of Nursing from Secretary of State

This bill would eliminate the current \$1,000 deduction for physicians that provide three to ten noncompensated clerkships and replace it with a tax credit for physicians, advance practice registered nurses, and physician assistants that provide at noncompensated training rotations with 160 or more total training hours. The credit for physicians would be \$500 for the first three rotations and \$1,000 for the next seven. APRNs and PAs would receive \$375 for the first three rotations and \$750 for the next seven.

It would also transfer the Georgia Board of Nursing from under the Secretary of State to be an independent licensing board administratively attached to DCH.

HB 314 (Shaw, 176th) – Surprise Bills

This legislation is SB 359 would require physicians to disclose to patients by publication or online the contact information of any providers they contract with 48 hours in advance, when possible. It would require hospitals to put their standard charges online, what networks they're in, a notice that physician's fees are not included, and a list of all contracting physicians. Hospitals would advise people to check to see if physicians are in network and provide information on how to check.

Insurers would notify customers that they can get an out of network referral when a qualified doctor isn't geographically available, that a pregnant customer can get all ob/gyn services covered in network, a list of in-network providers, and how out of network charges are handled.

Emergency care would be covered, regardless of whether the provider is in network. The provider would receive the lesser of the actual charge or the 80th percentile of similar procedures in that geographic area. The insurer would collect copayments, etc. from the insured as if all charges were in network. Insurers would arrange for people to be transferred somewhere in network within 24 hours of being stabilized or would be liable for the provider's full charge.

In the case of an unexpected change related to elective care that results in an out of network bill, the Department of Insurance would offer mediation. The process would be implemented by rule.

HB 357 (Stephens, 164th) – Boat Titles

This legislation would require owners of motorboats and sailboats over 12 feet, other than vessels that are exempt from numbering because they are new or new to Georgia, are owned or licensed by the federal government, are lifeboats only used as lifeboats, are exclusively used for racing, are only used on private waters, or are exempted from numbering under federal regulations to obtain a title from DNR. Every outboard motor over 25hp would be listed on the title.

An owner wishing to sell a vessel with a damaged hull would either apply for a hull damaged number or indicate the damage on the bill of sale for the transferee to file for a hull damaged number. Failure to disclose a damaged hull would be punished by a fine of up to \$1,000.

HB 605 (Spencer, 180th) – Hidden Predator Act

This legislation would allow people under 31 years old to bring actions for childhood sexual assault against entities that had a responsibility of care toward that person, knew or should have known about the assault, and covered it up between July 1, 2018 and July 1, 2019. Plaintiffs must prove concealment by clear and convincing evidence. After July 1, 2019, suits against entities would have to be brought within one year of the victim

obtaining evidence of a willful cover-up. Individual members or owners of the involved entities would not be liable unless they participated in the abuse. Cases must be brought within 12 years of the abuse. Plaintiffs would be required to submit an affidavit from an expert stating that the abuse caused damages. An entity would not be liable if it complied with mandatory reporting laws. It would allow victims that file under this act to receive victims compensation funds.

It would allow anyone age 23 to 30 to bring an action for childhood sexual assault committed after July 1, 2018.

HB 647 (Dempsey, 13th) – Obesity Pilot Program

This legislation would create a pilot program where DCH would partner with a Georgia university to provide coverage for obesity treatment under the state health plan, subject to appropriation. It would cover 500 people with body mass indexes of more than 30 and people with BMIs over 27 with obesity related conditions. It would cover any FDA approved obesity management medications and obesity prevention, screening, and counseling.

HB 713 (Chandler, 105th) – Lower SAT/ACT for Home School/Unaccredited Students to Receive Zell Miller Scholarships and Low Income College Scholarships

This legislation would reduce the SAT/ACT score needed for a home school student or a graduate of an unaccredited high school to obtain a Zell Miller Scholarship from the 93rd percentile to the 92nd.

It is also SB 405 that would create a tuition grant program for non-HOPE eligible students that work 15 hours a week, have a family income under \$48,000, qualify for and receive a Pell Grant, have a GPA of at least 2.3, and have scored at least a 21 on the ACT, a 480/530 reading/math on the SAT, a 3 on at least two AP exams, a 4 on at least 2 IB exams, or has completed a federal or state vocational program. The grant would be \$1,500 or pro rated if insufficient funds are available.

HB 721 (Powell, 32nd) – Require Driver's Schools to Provide Classes for Five Years Before Offering Testing

This legislation would increase the time that driver's schools are required to provide driver's education before offering testing from two years to five years and would allow driver's schools authorized to provide testing to test students that had taken classes at other schools or online.

HB 765 (Thomas, 56th) – Serious Injury Followed by Hit and Run

This legislation would provide that anyone that causes an accident that results in permanent bodily harm followed by a hit and run would be guilty of felony serious injury by vehicle and subject to a 1-10 year sentence. The current 1-15 year sentence for permanent bodily harm caused by reckless driving or DUI would be unchanged.

HB 782 (Rhodes, 120th) – Prescriber Database Access, Corrupt Health Practices, and Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery

This legislation would limit access to the prescription drug monitoring program database to two members of the prescriber's staff, not to any two licenses health care professionals in the facility. It would allow sharing of data with drug monitoring programs in other states.

It is also SB 352 that would prohibit health care providers, including mental health and addiction providers, from offering or soliciting kickbacks, commissions, or other payments for referrals. It would not prohibit group benefit plans, group practice agreements, consultation agreements, insurance agent commissions, gifts of up to \$100, and payments to entities that supply information about providers without directing patients to one or the other. It would be a felony of up to five years and \$50,000 per violation for conduct that affects up to 10 people, up to 10 years and \$100,000 for 10-19 people, and 20 years and \$500,000 for 20 or more people.

It would also prohibit conducting and billing for drug tests other than for the substances orders as well as practices like upcoding and unbundling testing charges. Violation would be a felony of 10-20 years and a fine of up to \$25,000.

It would also create a Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery overseen by a director appointed by the Governor and a board comprised of state agency heads, an accountability court judge, two advocates, and one Senator and one House member to coordinate a response to the opioid epidemic, including making recommendations for the use of Medicaid funds.

HB 783 (Caldwell, 20th) – Repeal Inactive Boards

This legislation would eliminate the Pacific White Shrimp Aquaculture Development Advisory Council, the Georgia Tobacco Community Development Board, the Southern Dairy Compact, the Heritage Trust Commission, the Child Care Council, the Georgia Southern University Herty Advanced Materials Development Center, the Private Colleges and Universities Authority, the Education Information Steering Committee, the Federal and State Funded Health Care Financing Programs Overview Committee, the Commission on Men's Health, the Renal Dialysis Advisory Council, the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program advisory panel, the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits, the Commission on the Georgia Health Insurance

Risk Pool, the Airport Antiterrorism Training Committee, and the Georgia Silver-Haired Legislature.

It also cleans up a scrivener's error relating to the Film and Television trail.

HB 887 (Powell, 171st) – Preempt Local Permitting of Small Cells

This legislation would allow cell providers to install utility poles in public rights to install cells with antennas smaller than 6 cubic feet and total volume of less than 28 cubic feet and to install those cells on existing publicly owned poles, except in places where utilities must be buried. Local governments could charge \$20/cell/year and identifiable costs of up to \$40/cell/year. For new cells, they could charge the lesser of the cost of a building permit or \$200 for the first five cells and \$100 for subsequent cells. The maximum price would be halved for publicly owned polls. The cells could not extend more than ten feet above the maximum pole height in the area would have to comply with neutral and nondiscriminatory zoning and other ordinances, including requirements to conceal equipment in downtown, residential, and federal historic areas. Local governments could require providers seeking to install polls to certify that colocation would be impractical.

For equipment that is taller than the greater of 50 feet or 10 feet poles within 500 feet, local governments would be able to consider their application through a non-discriminatory process that can consider the proposed height and may charge the lesser of the cost of a building permit or \$1000.

Local governments would not be able to contract for exclusive poll use with a single cell provider.

On-wire wifi and other transmitters smaller than 24"x15"x12" and an antenna under 11" would not require any permits, other than a work permit for the installation.

HB 917 (Dollar, 45th) – Update Bootlegged Media Technologies

This legislation would add memory cards, flash drives, hard drives, and data storage devices to the list of items that it is illegal to copy and distribute without the consent of the data owner.

HB 927 (Nimmer, 178th) – Allow Physicians to Supervise up to 8 APRNs

This legislation is SB 351 that would allow physicians to supervise eight APRNs at a time instead of four. It would allow advanced practice registered nurse protocols to allow the nurse to order MRIs and other imaging in all situations, not just life threatening ones.

HB 982 (Nimmer, 187th) – DFCS Placement of Dependents and Termination

This legislation would require DFCS to provide evidence of performing a relative search when a dependent child is receiving final placement and at each 75 day review hearing. It would allow DFCS to stop notifying eligible relatives when they have not expressed an interest in providing a home for the child for six months.

It would also allow DFCS to petition for the termination of parental rights of children removed from a home pursuant to a court order after 12 months when the parent fails to remedy the situation that led to the removal and would direct DFCS to join any case where a third party is petitioning for termination of rights.

HB 992 (Lott 122nd) – Deregulate Defibrillators and Recommend Them In Gyms

This legislation would eliminate all regulations relating to training and storage on the provision and use of defibrillators, except that people that use a defibrillator should contact 9-1-1 as soon as possible.

It also would recommend gyms and health clubs with more than 500 members to have at least one defibrillator on premises. DPH could provide by rule for larger gyms to have multiple defibrillators. Gyms would be encouraged to train expected users on how to use the defibrillator.

Appendix A: SB 407 - Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal Case Data Exchange Board

- This legislation would create the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board under CJCC to collect criminal filings and share information with law enforcement agencies
 - It would be the directors of CJCC, GCIC, OPB, the Administrative Office of the Courts, GPDSC, and the Georgia Technology Authority, the commissioners of administrative services, corrections, and community supervision, the executive counsel of the Governor, and a representative from the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council, or their designees, as well as a superior court judge, a superior court clerk, and a sheriff appointed by the Governor
 - It would have rule making authority over electronic filings in superior and state criminal cases
 - Data from juvenile courts would be collected pursuant to Judicial Council rules

Bail and Misdemeanor Citations

- It would allow prosecution of misdemeanor criminal trespass, shoplifting, retail fraud, or drug crimes (presumably possession of marijuana) by citation in addition to by summons and arrest, though fingerprinting would be required
- It would prohibit courts from imposing excessive bail, would require courts to consider the accused's finances, and to impose the least restrictive conditions possible
 - Bail for people accused of domestic violence would be set on an individual bases, not a bail schedule
 - It would allow for unsecured monetary bonds
 - It would allow judges to delegate bail responsibilities to other judges in writing
- Reasonable bail would be expressly required for people charged by citation and fail to appear at court

Probation

- It would expand the three year behavioral incentive date limitation on probation to also cover people sentenced for less than a year, people charged with nonviolent drug or property crimes, and people in the first offender program
- It would allow supervised probation for sex offenders to exceed the two year cap and last until modified by the court or the end of the sentence. Currently people who have not paid restitution can remain on supervised probation until they pay, and people convicted of gang violence can be kept on probation for up to five years
- It would require courts to issue an order terminating probation or set a hearing within 90 days when DCS submits an unopposed petition stating that the probationer has paid all restitution and served three years' probation without being arrested or having his or her probation revoked
- Courts would set a maximum monthly payment rate for pay-only probation in its contract with the probation provider
- It would not automatically schedule a person who fails to maintain contact with a probation officer for a revocation hearing

Sentencing

- Courts would be required to consider a defendant's financial resources when determining financial penalties other than restitution.
- Courts could let all fees, not just fines, be paid by community service

- It would allow job training or GED classes to be imposed in the same manner as community service

First Offender

- It would allow people currently serving sentences imposed prior to July 1, 2016 to petition the court to limit access to his or her court records as a first offender
- It would transfer retroactive first offender petitions from superior court to whichever court entered the conviction and eliminate the filing fee
- It would add felonies that are handled with a conditional discharge to rehab to the list of felonies that, if related to one's profession, would result in professional licenses being revoked
- It would provide that people incarcerated under the first offender program are treated as convicted during incarceration and then are treated as being on first offender probation once released

Medicaid for Inmates

- This legislation would allow otherwise eligible inmates to receive Medicaid
- It would direct DCH to determine Medicaid eligibility for long term care or potential parolees and facilitate certificates of need for Medicaid funded facilities that provide long term care for parolees

Driver's Licenses

- It would allow drug, mental health, veterans, and DUI courts to issue ignition interlock licenses
- It would allow drug, mental health, veterans, and DUI courts to suspend licenses as a sanction
- It would clarify that the DDS could issue probationary, limited, and ignition interlock permits to otherwise people with expired licenses

Firearms

- This legislation would increase the non-mandatory minimum sentence for someone convicted of stealing a firearm, explosive, or destructive device from one to five years
- It would increase the non-mandatory maximum sentence for someone convicted of possessing a firearm with an intentionally defaced serial number or other identification mark from five to ten years and the non-mandatory minimum for a subsequent offense from five to ten years

- It would clarify that the prohibition on straw purchases only applies when one is knowingly purchasing on behalf of a felon. The sentence would be 1-5 years for a first offense and 5-10 for a subsequent one
- It would provide that felons on conditional discharge to a rehab facility would be prohibited from owning or buying guns
- It would increase the sentence for felons possessing guns from 1-5 years to 1-10 years and make a subsequent conviction 5-10 years. It would also make a subsequent conviction for a felon trying to buy a gun 5-10 years; the first offense penalty of 1-5 years would be unchanged.

Electronic Civil Filings

- It would require civil filings in superior and state courts to be done electronically as of January 1, 2019
- The fees could be \$30/party, plus 3.5% + 30¢ to pay by credit card or bank draft, plus a \$5 supplemental fee after ten filings
- \$2 of the fee would go to the county; the court would keep the rest
- It would not apply to filings on a pauper's affidavit, to filings made at an electronic terminal at the courthouse, or during states of emergency
- Courts could not enter into contracts to exclusively contract with one filing provider

Appendix B: HB 930 - ATL Authority

ATL Authority

- Would be a new authority
- It would have authority over all counties in the EPA nonattainment area, which are Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, De Kalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties plus any counties expected by the authority to be in nonattainment within seven years
- The new board would be
 - A gubernatorial appointee as chair
 - The DOT Commissioner as a non-voting ex-officio
 - 10 members elected by the legislative delegations representing each of 10 new authority districts, the chairs of counties in the district, and a mayor

elected by a caucus of mayors of cities in the district. The Atlanta mayor would also have a vote for districts that include Atlanta.

- The districts would cover Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglass, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties
- Two appointments each by the Speaker and Lieutenant Governor
- It would create and maintain a regional transit plan with ARC
 - It would include both a 6 and 20 year component
 - It would outline the process for obtaining federal funds
 - It would provide for a unified brand
- All federal transit funds would flow through the authority
- It would have authority to issue up to \$1 billion in revenue bonds in addition to bonds secured by local taxes
- It would have eminent domain authority
- It would release annual reports by October 1 each year of projects with state and regional impact for consideration in the next year's bond package
- It would release a year end audit to the House and Senate Transportation Committees

Transit T-SPLOST

- Counties in the nonattainment area could impose a TSPLOST on their own. Other counties would need to impose TSPLOSTs in conjunction with at least one neighboring county.
- Would be unavailable for counties in regions with an existing regional TSPLOST
- Referendum Process
 - A country wishing to call a referendum would meet with the mayors of all cities in the county at least 30 days before calling a referendum to select a project list from the ATL Authority's regional transportation plan
 - Tax could be up to 1% and run for up to 30 years
 - The transit operator would be chosen in the IGA, or if no IGA, in the resolution to call the referendum
 - If the tax were to collect revenues in excess of what is needed to fund the projects in the resolution, those funds could be used to fund other transit projects in the regional transportation plan

- The process for a renewal of a transit tax must begin within two years of the expiration of an existing one

MARTA

- MARTA would adopt the “ATL” brand
- All limits on state funding in the MARTA Act would be repealed
- MARTA would be authorized to contract with local governments outside of the MARTA counties to operate transit systems in the ATL Authority’s regional plan. All operations funding must be funded by fares, other revenues from operating the system, or the contracting local governments. It would not authorize the construction of rail projects outside of the five county region

Cobb County Transportation District

- It would create the Cobb County Special District for Transit Committee comprised of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and the Cobb County legislative delegation to come up with a map and proposed transit contract
- The Board would have final approval
- A sales tax of up to 1¢ would be implemented in the district that runs for the duration of the MARTA tax
- The district would have to be created and implemented by December 1, 2019

Gwinnett County

- It would allow Gwinnett to enter into a contract with MARTA to provide transit service funded by a sales tax of up to 1¢ that runs for the duration of the MARTA tax, pursuant to a referendum
- Gwinnett could either finance the project through bonds or through a contract to make periodic payments to MARTA
- The Gwinnett Commission would get three appointments to the MARTA board

Fulton County

- It would allow Fulton County to issue an additional .20% sales tax to run for 10 to 30 years pursuant to an IGA with local governments representing at least 70% of the population outside of Atlanta to fund projects in the ATL Authority plan. It would be subject to a referendum

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